

By Gerard Loughran
Special to The Star

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV's 'glasnost' policy, with its visible escandancy at the Washington Summit, was arguably the dominant geopolitical reality of 1987. Coralling unrealistic public expectations could be one of the problems it has raised for 1988.

So unexpected a prospect would have lifted hearts back in January when super-power relations were on the cool side of frigid, and talk of evil empires did not prompt nervous coughing fits in Washington.

Developments in the Soviet Union, during 1987, were slumming in the challenge they held out to a rigid system and in their signal implications for the rest of the world.

— Moscow TV carried an unedited interview with British Premier Margaret Thatcher, which included criticism of the Soviet regime.

— A long-banned anti-Stalin poetry collection by Anna Akhmatova was published, and serialisation of Boris Pasternak's 'Dr. Zhivago' began in a literary magazine.

— Officials admitted the existence of AIDS and withdrew earlier charges that the virus was a product of US biological research.

— Anti-Soviet street demonstrations were permitted in the Baltic republics, and Crimean Tatars protested in the Red Square.

— A KGB officer was fired for framing a reporter investigating official abuse of power.

There was even a rebirth of political activity outside the Commun-



American President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev sign the INF Treaty

Major world events

Gorbachev faces the arduous task of selling arms reductions to his colleagues as a way to ease defence burdens and free the economy for urgently needed expansion.

Left party es clubs and student groups organized to transform Gorbachev's reforms into practice. Not that 'glasnost' (openness) and 'perestroika' (restructuring) were universally acclaimed. Gorbachev himself said that his policies constituted "the biggest step in developing socialist democracy since the October revolution." Clearly some Soviet apparatchiks feared that he was opening a "Pandora's box."

Opposition by inertia came from a large body of middle-level bureaucrats interested in preserving a comfortable status quo and an ideological level from high party officials made deeply uneasy by change. The strength of these fears was reflected in the dismissal of Moscow party chief Boris Yeltsin after he complained that reform was not going fast enough.

Optimistic Western analysts believe that Gorbachev's rule could presage the beginning of the end of the Cold War. Others point to his lack of flexibility on Afghanistan and human rights issues and his whole-hearted commitment to the basics of the Soviet system.

One school of thought believes that, if Gorbachev pushes too fast, he may find his policies reversed and the whole tone of relations with the outside world undermined. Peter Reddaway, a Sovietologist in Washington, has gone on record as saying, "It is extremely possible that, if Gorbachev continues with the present policies, he will be removed within the next two or three years."

On the other hand, the Duke University professor Jerry Hough, declared, "Gorbachev is as strong as Stalin was in 1927-28." Certainly the Soviet leader's performance in Washington, at the December

signing of the INF treaty, fascinated the American people.

So feverish was the response to his charm blitz that the super-powers could face expectations for advances in East-West relations that are not yet on the cards. Britain's Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe warned, "So far so good. But let us be careful not to swing from depression to euphoria lest we risk going back again."

What the Summit achieved was the abolition of American and Soviet medium-range missiles in Europe and some progress toward a new accord which would cut strategic nuclear missile arsenals by 50 per cent. Barring unforeseen obstacles, the later agreement could be signed, at another summit in Moscow next May or June, in a year that is important for the leaders of both super-powers.

Gorbachev faces the arduous task of selling arms reductions to his colleagues as a way to ease defence burdens and free the economy for urgently needed expansion. Next summer Ronald Reagan will be only months from laying down power after eight years. He is keen to redeem a tired presidency and inscribe his name in history as the man who opened the way to a new and safer world.

The stock-market collapse and

the enfeebling of the dollar have spelled out to the American leadership, that like the Kremlin, it cannot afford to spend on arms at the dizzy rate of the past.

A situation, in which 25 per cent of all US corporate wealth was destroyed at a stroke, at least in paper values — left confidence shattered and investors very nervous in the wake of the disaster of 19 October.

Analysts, looking for restoration



World Outlook

of fiscal faith, called for such corrective measures as deep cuts in the US budget and trade deficits, espousal of expansionary policies by West Germany, Japan and Britain, and agreement, by leading central banks, on low-interest rates.

Former Australian prime minister, Malcolm Fraser, urged Western banks to forego 50 per cent of the debts of Third World countries in an effort to restore an economic mainpring to those battered economies. Some European and US banks, including most recently the Bank of Boston, have begun to write off Third World debts — \$200 million in Boston's case.

If the Summit Treaty signing and the market crash were top stories in terms of headline value, the change of leadership in China could be a development of enduring significance.

At the 13th Communist Party congress in Beijing, all the aged revolutionaries retired, relinquishing their enormous power voluntarily — a rare development in a one-party state. Zhao Ziyang, 88, succeeded Deng Xiaoping as general secretary of the 46 million-member party, although Deng retained chairmanship of the party's Military Commission and continues to exercise great authority.

Elsewhere the world grappled, often unsuccessfully, with problems both new and old.

AIDS continued to cut a swathe of death across the world, and experts predicted that, during 1988, the number of confirmed

victims will reach 100,000, although those infected by the virus, are already numbered by the millions.

One report said that significant areas of Africa could be depopulated by the mid-1990s. Figures suggesting that blacks suffered more from AIDS than whites, provoked anger and outrage. "In New York," The Economist reported, "97 per cent of all babies born with AIDS are black."

However a group of scientists in Britain found that a human gene that seems to facilitate infection with the virus, is commoner among blacks.

Millions of dollars have been thrown at AIDS research, but there is still no sign of a cure and hundreds of thousands are condemned to die as long as the research goes on. For most of the developing nations, 1987 was no flagship year. Africa groaned under a \$200 billion burden of foreign debt, and drought and famine threatened again in many areas, especially wretched Ethiopia.

While tightened security held down political violence in South Africa, there was a plenty of violence across the white-ruled nation's borders, with clashes in Angola and raids against alleged ANC bases in the front-line states.

There were coups, generally agreed not for the better, in Burkina Faso, and Fiji. But the Arab world breathed a discreet sigh of relief when Tunisia's aged and erratic President Habib Bourguiba was peacefully eased out of office by his prime minister.

South Asia had Tamil guerrilla troubles in Sri Lanka, Sikh troubles

The stock-market collapse and the enfeebling of the dollar have spelled out, to the American leadership, that, like the Kremlin, it cannot afford to spend on arms at the dizzy rate of the past.

In India, anti-government dissent in Bangladesh, and the prospect of an old problem between Pakistan and the United States over allegations of nuclear weapons development by Islamabad.

Industrialists predicted another dynamic year for the nations of East Asia, though China, South Korea, and the Philippines all faced particular problems.

Latin America's prospects were overshadowed by debt-end-balance-of-payments problems, and experts predicted inflation of more than 100 per cent in Argentina.

The Aries plan for Central America (which earned its originator, President Oscar Arias of Costa Rica, the Nobel prize for peace) raised hopes for a transformation of the region.

The major scheduled political event of 1988, which may or may not be overshadowed by a final Reagan-Gorbachev summit, is the US presidential election, whose outcome defies even the most prescient of commentators.

The erstwhile Democratic front-runner, Gary Hart, provided an end-of-year shock by returning to the race, and politicians pondered whether Governor Mario Cuomo, of New York, might yet throw his hat into the ring. Candidates for both parties will be down to two or three by early summer, and outstanding candidates should be identified by convention time.

Whoever gets the nod from the American people his responsibilities, in the face of a finally changing China and Soviet Union, could hardly be greater.

Gerard Loughran is Managing Editor of Compass News Features.

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Business section
inside

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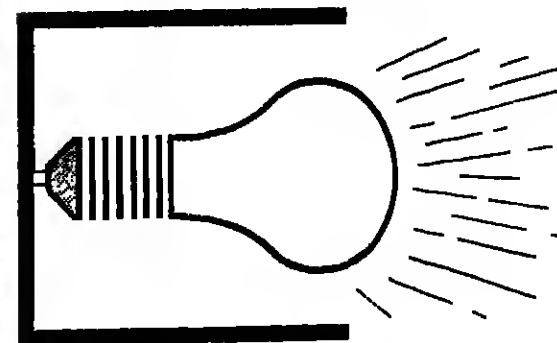
Small farmers, big problems



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Jordan

Amman Financial Market celebrates a birthday

By Rasim Rahim
Star Staff Writer

MARKET-MAKING, product-innovating, and even stock-crashing have been memorable phenomena for the 20th century's generations. A prophetic formula, which was handed down to us from our ancestors, says that money is added on to something else with a yield factor. Later, the formula introduced another wise saying: "Hold your horses" — save for the black days.

In Jordan every topic we pursue about our country's economy is a relatively clear-cut one, thanks to the people who suffered to let us "ask for more". Nevertheless, with the size of our economy and the irrationality of economic changes in the world, the scale of money-in and money-out has somehow been imbalanced.

That did not last for long, though Jordan proved that with little resources achievements can actually happen. This is the theory of the "Jordanian miracle" created by a small financial note with brains behind it.

The Amman Financial Market (AFM) at ten years of age, has set that scale to balance and has made it work again. "Foreign investors have gone thoroughly over the nature of our market and were sure, when they invested in corporate stock, that they would make profits," said Dr. Hisham Al-Sabbagh, director of the Amman Financial Market.

In a press conference marking the 10th anniversary of the Amman Financial Market, Dr. Sabbagh said the market's price-earning ratio, which is 12:1, is a competitive one compared with the Japanese, American and European markets, with profits of 2-3 per cent. The Amman Financial Market has given 6 per cent in profits for every dinar," said Dr. Sabbagh.

The market index, he said, recorded its highest point in February of 1982 (223.6 points), while its lowest record was in July of 1986 (102.8 points). Comparatively, the year 1987, recorded a net 10 per cent improvement between the opening index (105.0) in January of 1987 and the closing index (117.3) in December of the same year, said Dr. Sabbagh.

According to Dr. Sabbagh, a shareholder who held his or her stock between January and December of 1987 made a total of 16 per cent in profits per one share accounting for a zero-inflation factor.



Whaeing and deeling at Amman Financial Market

The market, throughout those 10 years, created a fully-dimensional qualitative move in Jordan's money market. The leasing of financial notes and encouraging investments by Arab and foreign companies were among the most important functions which were carried out in the market.

Touching on the financial "disclosure" issue, Dr. Sabbagh said that the market endeavored to make available all the necessary data to enable investors to assess their holdings vis-a-vis the listed shareholding companies and the market's intermediaries.

The following analysis of the primary and secondary markets of shares outlines the developments of those two markets as stipulated in Dr. Sabbagh's speech:

The Primary Market:

In 1978 a total of 11 companies was listed in the market at a total market value of JD 11,900,000. More issues were listed for public subscription in later years, reaching a volume of JD 343,900,000 at the end of 1987, as listed by a total of 121 companies.

Corporate bonds issued by public companies were introduced in 1979 at a market value of JD 5,000,000. At the end of 1987, the total value of these shares amounted to JD 114,000,000. Development bonds, as well, rose from JD 10,000,000 in 1978, to JD 138,500,000 in 1987.

In total, the Primary Market issues rose from JD 21,900,000, in 1978 to JD 598,400,000 in 1987.

The Secondary Market:

Figures recorded by the Secondary Market exhibited active handling for this market over a period of 10 years. The trading volume rose from JD 5,800,000, in 1978 to JD 141,400,000 in 1983; an increase of 2,425,000 per cent.

The rise in 1987 achieved a record high for that year, reaching JD 148,200,000 recorded an increase of 4.8 per cent compared with figures recorded during 1983.

Handled bonds in the Secondary Market rose by 33.2 per cent, from JD 776,289 in 1978 to JD 1,034,258 at the end of 1987.

Exclusive transfers, which were not handled on the stock floor, exhibited an increase in market value from JD 4,100,000 in 1978 to JD 18,300,000 in 1987, an increase of 348.3 per cent over a period of 10 years.

In total, the Secondary Market's value rose from JD 9,700,000 in 1978 to JD 187,500,000 in 1987, exhibiting an increase of 1,828.8 per cent over a period of 10 years.

Activities

The AFM is an independent and non-profit public company which aims to regulate the processes of

selling and buying of financial notes in Jordan's money-market. In attempting to regulate certain note issues, the market performs its functions on a commercial basis and is subject to the Jordanian commercial law, and in other dealings as stipulated in the market's law of establishment.

The market's objectives are defined within the framework of two basic functions:

- 1) carrying out the functions stipulated in the bourse of financial notes; and
- 2) supervising the process of date-publishing, which belongs to public shareholding companies.

Supply & Demand

To widen the base of share bidding at the market, the over-the-counter market was established on 20 February 1982. The supply and demand formula is always monitored by the government to ensure that stability and liquidity prevail in the daily market network.

During 1984, and owing to the

economic recession, commercial banks were instructed by the Central Bank to invest 15 per cent of their total shareholding in shares; however, this was not to exceed 10 per cent of the issued nominal value of each bank's stock.

Moreover, the Ministry of Trade and Industry instructed the insurance sector to invest 70 per cent of their technical reserves in shares. Thus, with the above mentioned regulatory steps, the bid curve could always equalize the bid curve in the market handling activities.

Arab investors

To attract Arab funds Arab investors were given the same facilities as those of the Jordanians and were treated on equal terms. Exemptions were also granted to the other Arab investors, as stipulated in the Special Law of Arab Investors. Immunity and security were provided to those who invested their funds in the country's leading sectors, such as industry, education, health, and tourism.

Jordan still in need for nurses

By Frida Mdanat
Star Staff Writer

HER MAJESTY Queen Noor Sunday presented certificates to 205 nursing graduates from three nursing colleges in Amman, Zarqa, and Irbid, and gave awards to six excellent students.

Speaking at the ceremony, Minister of Health Dr. Zaid Hamzeh, reviewed the nursing sector status in Jordan, and said that while Jordan has a surplus of doctors, it is still far from self-sufficiency on the nursing front. Hundreds of nurses and midwives are needed not only at hospitals, he said, but also at health centres which provide 95 per cent of the country's medical services in first aid, public health, and mother and child health care.

He said that by gone are those days when we lamented our society's attitude towards this noble career. Now there is an increasing public awareness and a stronger demand for the nursing sector to the extent that colleges are unable to accommodate all the applications they receive, he said.

With the number of beds available at hospitals and the average number of nursing graduates each year, Jordan needs 13 more years to reach the required number of midwives and eight years to reach that of nurses, the minister noted. One nurse for each 1000 citizens and one midwife for each 4000 are needed according to the Higher Medical Council studies.

A training college for nurses, opening soon, will receive the first group of students in September this year. This first batch of graduates will allow for the opening of new nursing colleges and the expansion of existing ones as a step towards solving the problem, said Dr. Hamzeh.

He denied the general belief that foreign nurses are given preference over Jordanians, one revealing that there are presently 565 foreign nurses working in Jordan, 45 of whom are appointed by the Ministry of Health and 12 work at the Jordan University Hospital, and expressed gratitude to the friendly countries which are providing Jordan with "this rare calibre."

He said that Jordan is approaching the comprehensive medical scheme, "put forward by our predecessors, which we have the honour to work on and implement."

Speaking for the three colleges, Mrs. Nawal Shamlaye paid tribute to the Ministry of Health efforts in supporting the nursing programmes and colleges which have tremendously contributed to the advancement of the country's medical services.

The ceremony, which took place at the Palace of Culture, was attended by parliament and cabinet members, ambassadors, the wives of the Prime Minister and Minister of Health, and relatives of the graduates.

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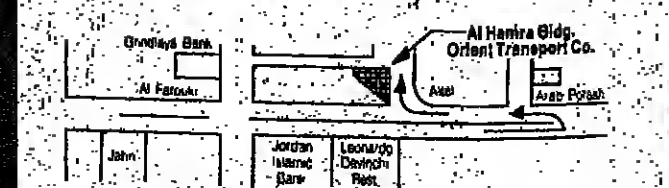
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فكرنا من المثل

Small farmers, big problems!

By Wata Amir
Star Staff Writer

JORDAN IS an agricultural country by nature, but many Jordanians have abandoned farming for more profitable sectors. Farmers have faced many problems since the beginning of time, but Jordanian farmers have been confronting serious problems, which according to some farmers interviewed by the Star "have been unsolved for many years and will continue until something concrete is done".

The Kingdom is dependent on agriculture to a great degree, but the Jordanian government has been focusing its efforts and its attention on industrial projects, which will not help the economy, said one of the farmers.

"The industrialized nations pay more attention to their agricultural sectors than Third World countries do," he said. He also stated the fact that developed countries protect their farmers from external competition, and provide them with many facilities that lead to the reduction of production costs as well as increase the ability to compete in international agricultural market.

Jordan also lacks the free market system which is practiced in other economies. "It is a monopolistic economy in which the farmers are the victims," said Abu Moussa, an old farmer. He added that they are not supported enough in many respects by governmental measures, and the country's regulations do not help in promoting their produce even in the local market.

Then, of course, are the forces of nature to contend with. On this subject, Muhammad Aliyeh, (owner of a factory specialized in agricultural irrigation) noted that prices of most vegetables last year, especially in October, November and December, were exceptionally low. These low prices were mainly due to the climatic conditions. Rainy weather this year, he said, came at a much later date than expected, so the mountainous agricultural products were very much affected.

Mr Aliyeh explained that the season for these products normally begins in March and ends in October, while the season for the Jordan Valley produce starts in October, i.e. in winter.

"This year, there was an imbalance. Winter arrived late, and that led to more production of the mountain produce. This, combined with the normal supply of the Jordan Valley's produce, drowned the market." He said in this case, the supply of vegetables and fruit exceeded the demand, thus causing a sharp decrease in their prices.

Mr Aliyeh remarked that the weather bulletins broadcast on local radio stations and on the television are important to the farmers' work. "Farmers depend on these broadcasts for most of their agricultural products are sensitive to weather conditions. A farmer cannot pick up his produce when the weather is very cold or it is raining."

If the weather bulletins are accurate and sophisticated and the weatherman can predict beforehand weather conditions in the coming day, then the farmers would be warned and so take the necessary steps to protect their produce, said Mr Aliyeh.

The farmers interviewed agreed with Mr Aliyeh and said that weather broadcasts in Jordan "are not helpful", thus leading to the loss and damage of their produce. "So, we switch to radio stations of neighbouring countries to get more accurate predictions," they said.

One farmer told the Star that the

local weatherman once predicted dry weather, "so I did not have to rush to pick my products from the field. The next day it rained so hard I didn't have enough time to save all my vegetables. Why are other neighbouring countries more accurate in their predictions, and we have to suffer from our weatherman's inaccuracy?"

Mr Aliyeh said farmers usually try to protect their products from frost by burning materials such as rubber tyres oil around their fields at night to prevent damage.

"This technique, however, will only succeed if farmers have weather information they can depend on", he said.

Haj Nabil Aliyeh, a farmer and an intermediary, stressed the need for more accurate weather predictions. "This would reduce the farmers' risk of losing their products, and thus save the farmers' effort and money which could otherwise be used to promote agricultural production in other fields. There is a widespread consensus among farmers that the local weather broadcasts are useless to them".

Among the many obstacles and problems facing the Jordanian farmer, Muhammad and Nabil Aliyeh mentioned the crucial one of marketing agricultural products.

"The local market is incapable of absorbing the excess Jordanian produce. As a result, farmers are confronted with excess produce that can't be marketed or exported", they noted. The excess produce was at one time absorbed by some Arab markets, mainly in Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, and the Gulf countries.

"Syria now doesn't import our products due to economic and political reasons. Iraq has difficulties, especially the war conditions so it has stopped importing our produce. As for Lebanon, its deteriorated economic situation has prevented it from importing many things, let alone agricultural products. The Gulf countries, on the other hand, utilize their own production, so do not need products from other countries. Consequently, Jordan's agricultural exports have decreased, while production increases.

Furthermore, the high cost of agricultural production constitutes another difficulty for the farmers. "It is a Jordanian farmer sells a product for 3 piastres, he loses, but if a Turkish or Egyptian farmer sells the same product for 2 piastres, he will profit", said Mr Aliyeh.

He explained the difference by referring to the very high production costs in Jordan, and the provision of facilities and government support in other countries. For instance, the Turkish government supports its agricultural exports by providing the agricultural sector with huge amounts of money. The same export facilities are not found in Jordan. As well, seeds, fertilizers, and agricultural equipment are very expensive.

"Every farmer is burdened with huge loans in order to survive," Haj Nabil said. They have to borrow in order to improve their products, and if the season is good, they profit. Otherwise, they keep borrowing until they can borrow no more.

In addition, the farmers said that they face many problems in exporting their farm produce, among which is the very high cost of empty boxes. They noted that they used to import strong boxes, fill to be used more than once. But, by means of economic regulations the government protects the carton



Marketing agricultural products remains a problem for Jordanian farmers.



The cost of empty boxes is a heavy burden on farmers.

packaging company from external competition, and stopped the import of the empty polyethylene boxes.

After this protection was applied, the farmers thought the box prices would decrease, but it did not, and the farmer now has to pay a lot of money for them to the Amman Municipality and to intermediaries.

70 per cent of the produce's selling prices is the cost of those empty boxes!

Mr Aliyeh said that two years ago the Higher Agriculture Council suggested reducing this cost by setting up a bank for empty boxes. Farmers could borrow empty boxes from the bank instead of purchasing them. The suggestion was referred to the Company for Manufacturing and Marketing of Jordanian Products, but so far, nothing has really happened. "If the bank had been set up it would have saved a million dinars for the farmer and the consumer. That money could have been used much more productively to support Jordanian farmers and agriculture", he said.

As for the export of farm produce, Mr Aliyeh said that the farmer has to pay a tax each year, even if he does not get any profit from selling his produce. The export of

agricultural products to neighbouring Arab countries is a very difficult process for farmers.

"Every day we hear of trade agreements signed between our government and Syria, Egypt, Iraq, etc., but none of these agreements have included the agricultural sector", the farmers complained.

They said that for their products to enter Saudi Arabia, the Jordanian loaded trucks have to empty their loads at the border and reload them into Saudi trucks. As for Iraq, it asks the farmers to pay JD 200 just to pass through its land.

"If the agricultural sector was left to the private sector, a big part of our problems would be solved", they added.

"But, looking at our situation realistically, we need our government's support". They said that the government can help by setting up a system of shipping by air to help reduce the costs of shipping to other countries to save time and money.

The farmers called on the government to reduce the cost of empty boxes, to ensure means of shipping to review the "agricultural pattern" programme the government has adopted, and to fix prices at wholesale levels.

"The government has already replied to all our complaints by adopting the agricultural pattern, where it asks certain farmers to produce a certain product on his land, while other farmers produce a different kind of product. This plan is not working and it does not solve our problems", the farmers emphasized. They said that excess production will still drown the market, and this pattern only increases the cost to the farmers and complicates the agricultural process. They explained this by saying that agricultural land ownership by farmers is limited to small areas, in general. Requiring that this land produce several different products will only complicate the process and raise the production costs.

Finally, the farmers suggested that the government could at least help them by undertaking measures to reduce the cost of agricultural production i.e. fertilizers, and any other materials going into the agricultural process. Further, it can help by revitalizing the neighbouring traditional markets of Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and the Gulf states in order to absorb more of their produce.

Another important area needing attention is the volume of exports to the giant markets of Europe.

And the weatherman says...



Dr. Ali Abandeh

By Diana C. Chikangwa
Special to The Star

FOR CENTURIES man has tried in many ways to predict the weather, and even to try to control it. Over the years techniques have become more and more sophisticated, though some might doubt that the results have improved!

As Jordan does not normally experience drastic changes in weather conditions that deter us from venturing outdoors, the importance of the Meteorological Department is one that might be easily overlooked.

However, work done by this department covers a surprising range of activities that are ultimately useful to us all.

It was not until 1982 that the first Meteorological Department was established in Jordan. Located in Jerusalem at the time, the department consisted of a handful of people working for its six or seven stations.

Today Jordan's Meteorological Department, part of the Ministry of Transport, has grown to 40 stations located all across the Kingdom. The number of staff has also grown to approximately 300.

When the Jordan Meteorological Department was first established, it was equipped only to provide bulletins of the weather forecast to the local population. Today it provides information to the World Watch System, which collects data from three centres located in Washington D.C., Moscow, and Melbourne.

Also, the Meteorological Department today boasts 8 Agrometeorological Centres spread all across the Kingdom. These stations, located in the Jordan Valley, semi-desert, and mountain areas — all work together to provide information important for agriculture.

"We also perform agriculture experiments and issue advice to farmers," said Dr Ali Abandeh, director-general of the Meteorological Department in a recent interview.

"The Agrometeorological Division also issues a bulletin on the weather situation in Jordan every 10 days, which is of great use to the farming community," he added.

Also available now is an Upper Air Station from which balloons, equipped with electronic radio, sound equipment are launched twice a day. These balloons are able to measure temperature, humidity, pressure, and wind direction and speed, from the surface to about 80 thousand feet.

The Department also has one pollution station, one marine station in Aqaba, and about 15 climatological stations.

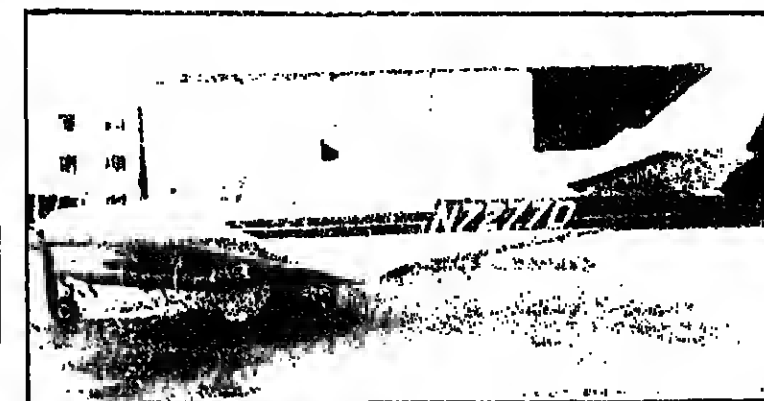
Another important function that the Meteorological Department plays is issuing forecasts for the Aviation Department, providing services to both civilian and military personnel.

"The main Aviation Centre is located at Queen Alia Airport," said

Dr Abandeh. "The old Amman Airport is another old forecasting unit used by the Royal Airforce Academy."

As there is no established University or College programme for the science of Meteorology in Jordan, one might wonder where the qualified personnel are recruited from.

The Department offers a training course to B.Sc. graduates in the areas of Physics, Geography, or



The cloud-seeding plane

Mathematics. Upon completion of the course, the graduates are employed as forecasters in their respective fields. As well, the department now offers a six-month course to people with secondary education diplomas.

Dr Abandeh also noted that a new course in the field was introduced by the University of Jordan in 1987. The course offers a specialized diploma in meteorology.

An overall increase in the number of qualified workers in the field of

meteorology in Jordan has had a positive effect on the growth and development of the department unit its projects.

Although Jordan has been a member of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) — a specialized agency of the United Nations since 1969, it witnessed the election of a Jordanian national on the WMO executive council for the first time only this year.

The WMO meets every four years to discuss the issues in Meteorology.

The science of Arab meteorology

A prominent Arab meteorologist — Abu Abdullah Bin Zekariya Bin Mohammed Al-Quzwini — was born in Quzwin in 605 H and died in 682 H. He was interested with meteorology and wrote a few books in this branch of knowledge.

His most famous book is "Al-Jawab Al-Makhlouqat Wa Ghareeb Al-Mawjoudat", (Wonderful Creatures and Strange Beings) in which he described stars, planets and galaxies, their apparent movement and consequently the change of seasons. Another important book is "Asfhar Al-Bilad Wa Akhbar Al-Ibad" (Accomplishments of Countries and News of

God's Servants) in which he spoke about the need to establish big cities, country characteristics and the influence of environment on people, plants, and animals.

Al-Quzwini called for reflection on God's tokens manifested in His creatures in accordance with what is enjoined in the Holy Qur'an. He pointed out the myriad number of stars and their difference in colour and to the movement of the sun, its rise and set and distinguished the time of labour from that of rest. He also expounded about the moon and how lunar eclipses and solar eclipses happen.

He urged for pondering over thick clouds and how the wind moves them and sends them down in drops of water for the good of plants. He wrote about storms and defined them as the wind rotating around themselves like minarels.

Finally, Imagination played its part in his thinking — he believed in Mythology and wrote about a flying dragon which appeared near Aleppo with fire gushing out of its mouth. In another part of the book, Al-Quzwini described the dragon as a huge animal covered with small scales and immense wings.

gy. In addition, the WMO executive council, composed of 38 directors of national Meteorological Services serving in an individual capacity, meets at least once a year to supervise the programmes approved by the congress, such as the application of meteorology to water problems and agriculture in the case of Jordan.

In an attempt to promote activities in hydrology, and to increase the water supply, a weather modification or cloud-seeding project was recently carried out in Jordan. The purpose of this project was the attempt to increase the amount of

rainfall in the country during the rainy season, between November and April.

The programme, which started in Jordan in November 1986, was carried out by the Department with the help and guidance of an American-based firm, Weather Modification Inc. In order for this project to be implemented, equipment and supplies, which included a cloud-seeder plane and a weather mobile radar, were also shipped to Jordan in November 1986 and January 1987. Through use of such equipment and careful planning, meteorologists were recently able

to carry out the cloud-seeding programme.

According to Dr Abandeh, it is hoped that this project will increase

the total rainfall this season by 10 to 15 per cent.

"I think it is very useful because water is the most precious thing in Jordan," he said. "The total amount of rainfall over Jordan is 6 thousand million cubic metres. If we increase this by only 10 per cent, there will be a total of 600 million cubic metres of rainfall, which is worth a lot more than the \$500,000 it has cost to implement the project." "This increase is definitely very important, in the marginal areas especially, since the results of the project could mean having or not having a crop."

Another significant project, being carried out in the Meteorological Department, is the Technical Co-operation Installation of a Solar Radiation Measuring Network through the co-operation between the Jordanian and West German Governments.

According to the head of the Solar Radiation Centre and Senior Weather Forecaster at Queen Alia Airport, Mr M. Suleiman, there are only two Solar Radiation stations located at Amman Airport and in Shobak.

The solar radiation readings will eventually be useful in agriculture, building installations, etc, but before those practical applications data will be collected for about 3 years. "We hope to have a total of 8 radar stations set in the near future," Suleiman said.

As for other future projects, a National Weather Forecasting Centre is to be established in Jordan.

"It is the biggest and most recent Meteorological project to be carried out in Jordan," said Dr Abandeh. The forecasting centre is to be established in Amman Airport and will be equipped with advanced equipment, including computers, weather satellite stations, and advanced computerized telecommunication systems to receive weather information from all over the world.

"It will be fully automated and up to the standard of all meteorological centres in developed countries," said Dr Abandeh. "The forecasting centre will also be able to more accurately forecast weather conditions of up to a week."

"This project, financed by the American, West German, and Jordanian governments, is of great significance to the Jordan Meteorological Department as it will not only produce more accurate readings but will also work at a faster speed and eventually cut back on costs," he added.



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By Leila Deeb
Star Staff Writer

Kaufman: uprising is inevitable

AMMAN — A senior British Labour Party official told the uprising in the occupied territories was not surprising. "It was inevitable, but whether the events are substantial enough and will continue constantly to justify the name 'uprising', I cannot say," Mr Gerald Kaufman, shadow foreign minister told The Star in an exclusive interview.

"What is clear to me is that after 20 years of occupation, there is visible reaction to the fact that 1.3 million Palestinians are living under the rule of another country and without any civil rights... While I regret the violence, it is not surprising for the people to involve themselves in it in order to draw attention to their feelings," he said.

He said the deportation of Palestinians from their homeland was a mistake, and since this was so much resented by the Palestinians and Arabs, and even the Americans who said they regarded them as violations of international law, they would seriously hamper the process of a settlement. "In my view, a settlement is in the interest of all parties concerned, including Israel," Kaufman said.

He said he was for a settlement that would provide for Palestinian self-determination, as well as for the security of Israel, but it was not for him as an outsider to say how this should come about, adding this was also Labour Party policy. But, he added, this was a matter to be decided upon by the Palestinians themselves, in consultation with Arab States, especially Jordan, which was the country most concerned. He praised Jordan's constructive efforts in trying to convene an international peace conference, which he said was the only means of providing a settlement, but would not put forward any ideas on what that settlement could be.

Kaufman added that the Palestinians as a whole, and the Palestine Liberation Organization should be represented, saying that the form of Palestinian representation should also be decided by them together with Jordan and other Arab countries. The Labour Party member of the House of Commons, representing a district of the city of Manchester for the last 18 years, also said he had discussed the idea of the conference with the United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who told him the UN was willing to hold the conference under its auspices. During the same trip to the United States three weeks ago, Kaufman said he had also met with Deputy Secretary of State Richard Murphy and had urged him to put pressure on Israel to accept the conference.

"Murphy said what he wanted was to find the key to open the door to peace. I said this was not satisfactory, and urged him to put more pressure on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir."

Kaufman said he was not in favour of the Likud Party winning the upcoming Knesset elections because he and his party supported Israel's Labour Party, and because he knew that Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres supported the conference. He said Israel had proved that it could win wars against its adversaries, but has not been able to show that it could bring tranquility for the people, and to ensure that they were not subjected to attacks and "terrorist activities."

"Israel should find a way to make peace because it is not acceptable for a country, and bed for a democracy, that proclaims adherence to human rights, to rule over a large number of people for

so long, depriving them of their civil rights," Kaufman said, adding that "as long as the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza continues, the danger of disturbances will always be present."

He said Shamir should participate in the conference and be able to use this as an election programme, saying that he was able to bring peace to Israel after 40 years. Kaufman added that the manner in which Israeli troops handled the disturbances, using live ammunition, resulting in the death of 23 persons and Israel's friends abroad to criticize it.

Kaufman said he had discussed all these matters during his visit here, which came at an official invitation by the Jordanian Government, when he met with His Majesty King Hussein and senior

officials. He added that he would be going to the West Bank and Gaza and would meet with Palestinian leaders there before attending an official visit to Israel.

"I will try to convince Mr Shamir to attend an international conference because here we have an opportunity to achieve peace." But he added that he did not believe such a conference would be held in the near future due to both Israeli Knesset elections and the 1988 US presidential elections.

"I would like to make clear my very strong support for an international conference, and to assist, through my contacts in the Arab countries and in Israel, to bring it forward. All those who care for this region should support governments like Jordan's to bring this about," Mr Kaufman said.



Mr. Kaufman talks to The Star's reporter

الآن

• لأول مرة في السوق المحلية
• خدمة انصبا لائبة واستهلاكية
• تسهم في حركة التنشيط الاقتصادي

• لكل تاجر وفندق ومؤسسة ولكل
• مواطن وسيلة انصبا وترويج
• موثوقة.. مفصلة وعملية.. على
• مدار السنة

• نقمتن أسماء وهوائف الأطباء والمهندسين
• والشركات وكل مرافق الخدمة حسب الإختصاص

دار السياسة هي صاحبة
الإمتياز الوحيدة في الأردن ولمدة

خمس سنوات
الدليل يوزع أيضا في الكويت والخليج
ومعظم العواصم العربية

JORDAN
YELLOW
PAGES

دليل الأردن
الصفحات
الصفراء

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يتم بالتعاون مع مؤسسة المواصفات والمقاييس

STAR FEATURES



FADIA FAQIR

A
debut
of
bright
promise



Fadia Faqir

By Pam Dougherty
Special to The Star

"A DEBUT of bright promise" and "a first novelist definitely to be rated an investment" are among the British newspaper reactions to the publication of "Nisanit", the first novel by Jordanian writer Fadia Faqir.

And Fadia has certainly not made a hesitant start with her novel, which tackles major themes head-on, dealing with both the Arab-Israeli conflict and the past and present state of Arab-Arab relations.

In an interview with The Star, Fadia explained that Nisanit has three narrative lines, showing the story through the eyes of a Palestinian guerrilla fighter, his Israeli torturer and a young Arab woman in love with the Palestinian fighter. The story takes place in different times and at different times and action is then juxtaposed to make "a bizarre, chaotic reality." The

novel's scenes of prison, torture and madness reflect, for its author, a feeling of the chaos of the Middle East where, she says, "We don't believe in ideologies, we play games and everyone is guilty of something."

In writing Nisanit Fadia says she tried to work from an independent position in order to maintain her creativity and political credibility. Although she is clearly an Arab writer committed to her own culture and to the Arab position in the conflict, all her characters, Arab or Jewish, are human beings with individual voices, not just types.

Fadia acknowledges the influence of writers such as Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Salman Rushdie on her work. There is, she says, a similarity between South America, the Indian continent and the Arab World in their continuing belief in the supernatural, their ability to move between levels in time and their retention of a strong

The title of the book is the name of desert flowers, deep rooted and enduring, and such hardness and blossoming promise permeates the suffering, fears, courage and hopes of the book's weary well-drawn characters.

The academic setting also provides necessary financial support for a new writer. Fadia accepts that the artist may need to suffer to create but doesn't see outright



NISANIT

Nisanit has had rave reviews in Britain

poverty is either necessary or constructive

She tends to feel that as a writer, an Arab, and a woman, she will have more than enough battles to fight to become established, particularly in her own country and region. But once again she will tackle the issues which concern her head-on in her new work, which focuses on a Bedouin woman looking for the most basic triumphs in her life in a setting in which the patriarchal system must in the end win.

Writing in England, and in English, has brought a certain freedom. Although she had to struggle with the language she felt she could, in a sense, write anything she wanted to without any feeling of cultural or social restraint. There is also a strong interest in women's writing in Britain now, following the emergence of so many good woman writers and

of specialist publishing houses prepared to give them a chance.

There is, in fact, so much interest now in Middle Eastern women, says Fadia, and such a dearth of material about them, that writers in her situation must be careful not to fall into the trap of exploiting this interest and becoming what might be called "professional Arabs" writing not for themselves but for a sensationalist market.

She would also like to be able to work in Jordan in the future though she is afraid that women are still not taken seriously as individuals. When she came back to Jordan with her MA Fadia was unable to find work which made any use of her academic training. She has little confidence the situation will have improved by the time she finishes her current programme of study.

Nisanit is available in Amman at the Jordan Book Centre on University Road.



By Frida Mdanet
Star Staff Writer

Henrich R. Reinstrom, newly appointed director of the Goethe Institute, told The Star this week, "Our objective is to offer programmes to both Jordanians and Germans and to address as many people as possible."

Having served in Beirut, Cairo, Caracas, Casablanca, and Damascus, Mr. Reinstrom is cognizant of

New director at Goethe Institute

the Near East and its people, yet he said that he studies each country individually and tries to find out the needs and interests of its people.

"I am confident that we can do well for the country and strengthen the already good relations between Jordan and the Federal Republic of Germany," said Mr. Reinstrom, who expressed his appreciation of the excellent welcome he received in Jordan and said he is "pleased to be back in the area and will do his best to meet the expectations of the public."

Mr Reinstrom said the institute strives to expand its activities so that they are not only limited to the capital, but to reach other cities of the Kingdom. He said that lectures will be organized in Irbid and Karak with the collaboration of universities and cultural and scientific institutions.

To aid in this work, he explained, close co-operation will be main-

tained with Jordanian graduates of German universities in order to use their knowledge and assistance in the programmes of the institute.

German orientalist and scientists specialized in the Middle East will be invited to lecture in Jordan on subjects and areas of interest to Jordanian scientists, said Mr. Reinstrom. Seminars and symposiums will be organized by the joint efforts of Jordanian and German specialists in the areas of economy, geology environment, and other sciences.

For this purpose, Mr. Reinstrom is arranging to meet with representatives of scientific and higher education institutions to study the needs of the country and plan the relevant programmes.

The idea he stressed "is to bring a German representation of interest to Jordan."

On the cultural side, Mr. Rein-

strom said that the institute organizes films, exhibitions and concerts, "which bear instruction and information messages".

Contemporary German artists will feature their works in Jordan with an invitation to direct dialogue and exchange views with the public and galleries, he said. In this way art can be more accessible to larger numbers of people.

Jazz, rock, and Deuche chamber music, in addition to the classics of Beethoven and Mozart, will be performed in Jordan with an attempt to find a point of contact between Jordanian and German music, said Mr. Reinstrom, adding that action will be taken to enhance music education in the country. As well, training sessions will be offered to kindergarten and school teachers of music to develop music instruction for children.

A variety of 15-20 minute films will be presented at the institute.

This special cinema art offers documentaries and feature films which touch upon current social economic and artistic issues. They can be of interest to a wide range of viewers, especially school and university students, particularly because they will be followed by group discussions.

The activities at the institute include Arabic language courses for foreigners and German language classes for all levels, in addition to the regular German Speaking Ladies' conversations.

Highlights of the January programme include: a piano recital by Peter Schmalz at the Amra Hotel on 18 January at the Vocational Training Centre in Ein El-Fasha, and a lecture by German Ambassador Herwig Bartels "Anatolian Flat Woven and Related Archaeological Evidence", also at Ein El-Fasha, in addition to films and videos for children.

living Carnival brightens the holiday



This unlikely trio took part in the fancy dress competition

By Hana Shahin
Special to The Star

FREE-TIME or leisure time, although much coveted by both adults and children, can become a problem. As a result, during school mid-term holidays, children and their mothers go out hunting for activities to keep the little ones amused.

One of the activities held for children last week was in the Syndicate of Professional Unions building. Last Sunday and Monday around 200 children joined in fun and games at the Children's Carnival.

The Carnival was initiated by teachers from Bisan school, "in an attempt to gather children and have a good enjoyable time with them during their long vacation," said Raeh Khader, the organizer of the Carnival.

The Carnival included a fancy

dress parade, where mothers and children came up with original ideas. From a very long line of clowns, animals, Red Indians, Spanish and Hawaiian dancers, some of the winning prizes for best costume went to a girl dressed as a candy and another one wearing a home-made bird costume.

A Charlie Chaplin, wearing his father's suit and shoes, depicting Chaplin's swiveling walk, "as Mamma taught me," said young Mohamed, was another winner. A 12-year-old boy's love for adventure movies inspired him with a pirate costume which won him a prize although he thought that "Rambo" would have made a better impact on his peers.

Competition in belly dancing and break dancing was an outlet for those children who do not shy from showing off their dancing talents. This was in addition to other Red Indian and Indian dances, prepared and performed by children from

Bisan school and their friends.

A singing competition, as well as the audience joining the animal parade in singing songs, was another hit with the children.

For those "A" students, an intellectual programme was included in the party, with a computer competition, in which maths, sentence structure and vocabulary were constructed on an Arab MSX computer.

Mothers accompanying their children were not forgotten. Special games included a laundry collection, where housewives had to be quick and neat in collecting their laundry and another game for mothers was jumping in sacks and filling baskets with balls.

The two-day carnival event was well received by both mothers and children. As Umm Sami explained, "we keep on the lookout for children's activities, but alas they are few." Umm Loui agrees that finding activities, especially in the winter season, is quite a problem for children and parents alike.

Rasha and her friend Wisam, 13 and 14 years old respectively, complained that if it was not for the Carnival, probably they would have had no fun at all during the vacation. Quite seriously Rasha added, "We demand more activities for people of our age."

However, it seems that Umm Loui feels that the home environment affects children's utilization of spare-time. For example, her two boys, aged 12 and 10 years, spend most of their time reading. Another boy, 13 years old, Marwan Mousa, has no problem of idle spare time, as he spends hours working on his computer, programming telephone numbers or playing games.

For a flicket of JD 2,500, the children enjoyed cakes and refreshment, in addition to the variety programme held at the Carnival. Valuable prizes were given out to the winners, as well as presents to all the children who attended this fun event at the Professional Unions Syndicate.

helps a lot with backache, and massage can also help to ease an aching back, and later on in pregnancy try to make sure you get enough rest.

Cramp is another discomfort of pregnancy that is very common, and can be very painful. It usually happens at night, in the legs or feet, and the cause is not really known. To cope with cramp, rub the muscles very hard, and try bending your foot upwards with your hand. Your husband can lend a helping hand with this.

Pregnant women also feel faint. It is more likely to happen if you stand still after walking briskly or if you get up from a low chair or get out of bed in a hurry. Dr Kilani advises that if you feel faint while standing, find a seat quickly and the faintness will pass. If you are lying on your back turn to your side.

As your baby grows, the skin of your abdomen gets tighter and may itch a lot. There's little you can do about it, though it's very annoying. It can help to wear smooth materials next to the skin, and to wear dresses rather than trousers to avoid the waistband rubbing you.

Nausea is also very common in the early weeks of pregnancy. The causes are due to hormonal changes taking place in the body, and it usually disappears around the 12th to 14th week. Different people cope with nausea in different ways. Try eating small amounts of food instead of the usual three meals a day, and avoid the foods and smells that make you feel worse. Give yourself time to get up slowly in the morning, and try

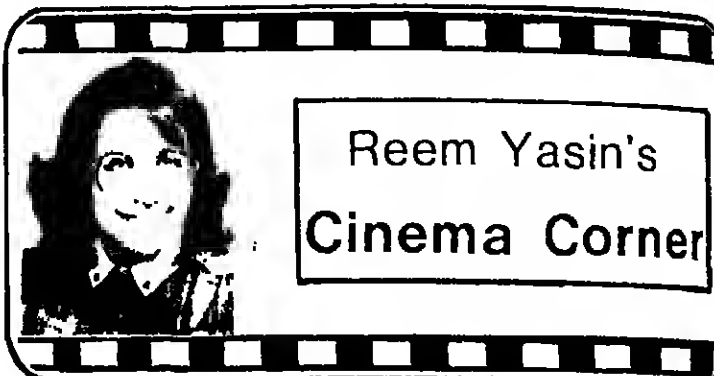
having dry toast or a plain biscuit before you get up. Of all the problems of pregnancy, nausea or sickness can be the most difficult to cope with because it comes at a time when you may be feeling emotional and tired in any case. Don't worry, for it does stop, and it is followed by a time when you feel and look very well.

A dreaded consequence to being pregnant for a lot of women is getting stretch marks. Some women get them, and some don't depending on the elasticity of the skin. But of course you are more likely to get stretch marks, whatever sort of skin you've got if you put on too much weight. Try not to put on more than 11-12 kg during your pregnancy.

Some women use oil and creams, to keep the skin moistened. Even if you do get stretch marks, they will gradually fade after the baby is born, but they will never go away completely.

The ankles, feet and hands often swell a little in pregnancy because the body holds more water than usual. This tends to happen more towards the end of the day, especially if you have been standing for long or the weather is hot. Wear comfortable shoes, and put your feet up as much as you can.

Swelling can sometimes be the sign of a condition called 'pre-eclampsia'. Other signs are high blood pressure and protein in the urine. So if you do get swelling in your ankles, feet or fingers, point it out to your doctor.



Reem Yasin's
Cinema Corner

Shahin soars with "The Sparrow"

IT WAS quite an exciting experience to watch the outstanding Arabic film "Al Usfur" (The Sparrow) transmitted on air last week. An exceptionally daring film by an outstanding director, the Egyptian Youssef Shahin, "Al Usfur" transcends its local borders to express the pain and the tentative hope that lingers in many hearts.

The film is set on the eve of the 1967 war in Egypt and extends to the shattering aftermath. It is a most penetrating analysis of different sectors of society, concentrating on how they were duped by the media before, during and after the war. However, it ends on an astoundingly hopeful note with the whole people rising in determination against accepting defeat.

The main theme of the film is war on both its fronts: the interior and the exterior. The aim of the battle is to defeat the enemy threatening the country on its frontiers, and the more dangerous one gnawing at it from the inside. This latter foe is what is sarcastically referred to as "the legitimate crooks" (represented by the bureaucrats and the state bourgeoisie) - people who can legally get away with anything, leaving the damage behind.

Thus the film opens with the two brothers Ra'ouf and Riad going off to battle, each in his own direction. Riad, the army officer, is heading for the front in Sinai, and Ra'ouf, the police officer, is off on a mission to catch a criminal who is playing havoc with public security.

But it is the perceptive journalist Youssef (Saleh Gebeel) who knows that Ra'ouf and Riad are on a wild goose chase. Both are going to fail in their attempts to shoot down the elusive "sparrow". A promising young revolutionary, Youssef is determined to uproot corruption even with the cost of exposing his own father. It is on him mainly that a hope for a better tomorrow lies.

Another focal character in the film is Bahla (in an outstanding performance by Mohamed Tawfiq), the landlady whose house is the shelter to which everybody turns for protection in times of crisis. She is the strong, resilient and young-at-heart woman who stands as a symbol for the homeland itself. The theme song of the film echoes her name all through.

To complete the picture and form a complete social mosaic there are minor roles supporting the main characters. Through each has a special importance in the film, the most significant is the character of the little boy rebelling against adults who continually lie to him - underlining the way they themselves are being fooled by the authorities.

The endless significant details and the complex structure of the film show a hyper-sensitive artist and a master craftsman at work. Typical of director Shahin's later style, the film is an example of his technical finesse. Shots flash to and fro, scenes are expertly cut to reveal simultaneous action on different levels (working in analogy or in contrast), pieces of a jigsaw are scattered demanding great concentration to reveal the final effect.

But for real film lovers it is labour well spent. For nothing equals the elation one feels at having put together the pieces, finally getting to the heart of the matter and grasping the message behind it all, a message as tauntingly elusive as the "sparrow" itself.

Recent film releases

Batteries Not Included (PG) Hume Cronin - Toy-like flying saucers save harassed building tenants. Inspired fantasy (Good)

Broadcast News (R) William Hurt - Smashing comedy drama that dissects overblown TV news ego (Great)

Edie Murphy New (R) Edie Murphy - Film version of Murphy's stand-up comedy act. Much profanity and women laughing (Fair)

Embers of the Sun (PG) Christa Belfrage - Epic account of a plucky boy who survives World

War II Japanese prison camp (Good)

Fatal Attraction (R) Michael Douglas - Crackerjack thriller of man caught in threatening extra-marital affair (Good)

Ironweed (R) Jack Nicholson - William Kennedy's novel about a ghost-haunted derelict falls to come to life on screen (Fair)

The Last Emperor (PG-13) John Lone - Beautifully filmed sweeping epic of China's last imperial ruler. Visually exciting (Great)

Forty people went on the International Club of Diplomats trip to Pharoun Island, so kindly arranged by Egyptian Consul to Aqaba Ahmed Raghib. Some of the people who went described it as the most successful trip of all. A group of nuns from Jerusalem, visiting Aqaba, was invited to join the group. Not only was the JETT bus ride comfortable, but Sami Abbeduto took good care of the group at the Aqaba Hotel. The weather was wonderful and the sea warm, which is probably why they were able to swim at the beginning of winter. The group was also grateful for the arrangement made for them by the Aqaba Port authorities. Not mentioning the kiddies, some of those who went on the trip were Liz Menalely, David and Caroline Whitbread, David and Betty Hawkes, Bill and Jackie Hamilton and Malcolm and Sue Ives from the British Embassy, while Peter Enzminger represented the Americans and Ron Sawyer the Canadians. Zhang Hefeng and wife Wang Zhanter represented the Chinese, with Koreans Mr and Mrs Kim and family, Poland's George Dobrowol and Tadeusz Kristina Rozyczki, and last but not least, Wegih and Tiba Hamdi and Hilmi and Mirvat Bdeir from the Egyptian Embassy, initiator of many lovely trips last year to Sinai and Upper Egypt. Hope we haven't missed any more participants, and apologies if we have, as these junkies are so popular that one often misses some people. We are all looking forward to more club activities soon.

John Kaufman, Shadow Foreign Secretary of the Labour Party in the UK, gave a lecture at the Plaza Hotel last week on the Palestinian problem and the Gulf war. He was invited by the Jordanian - British Society, and President of the society Senator A. Khammash. Also in attendance were British Ambassador John Coles and his wife, Anna Muea, her and his wife, General Manager of the Jordan Potash Co. Ali Nasour, orthopaedic surgeon Dr. Nebil Atallah and his wife, Munther Fahoum, Assistant General Manager of the Arab Bank, and Michael Marro, General Manager of the Jordan Bank.

Khemla Bader Abu Dahab has hatched a plan with two friends, inspired by the success of the Arab Summit, to make a statement of their own about the need for world peace. Khemla eventually intends

to run around the world with his message, and has already received support from the Housing Bank, Toyota Corporation, SOS Children's Villages, and other companies in Amman.

He and friend Walid Mohamed plan to run through Jordanian cities, and then he and Nivoun Abdullat will run through other Arab countries, before Khemla sets off on his own. He is looking forward to meeting many old friends and of course to making new ones.

The wedding reception of Steve and Erica Collier last week was unforgettable. All their friends plus relatives were at the British Club to wish them well. Both bride and groom looked blissful and beautiful, as all drank a toast to them and ate some of the lovely white, pink-trimmed wedding cake. The guests, led by British Ambassador John Coles, were received by the newlyweds, Steve's parents Bob and Irene Collier, Erica's mother Marlene Wilson, maid of honour Anne Tschewitch, and the two best men Abad Swellens and Hans Zwele. Other guests were Hilary and Annie Synnot, Phil and Liz Menalely, David (taking photos and video films) and Betty Hewkes, Mr and Mrs Elias Zrelat, Sawan Halabi, Maher Abu Qharbleh, Caroline and David Whitbread and daughter Claire, Mohammed and Jans Maerl, Jos and Traba Little, Nabil Hlad, Jamil Shahadeh, Jamal Maerl, Lelle Desb, Alec and June MacKanzie, Adib and Rose Shibly, Ken and Geraldine Owen, Ian and Sandra Whitler, Kevin and Anne Cody, Syd Holder, Salha Said, Vicky Sherman, Ian and Sandra Ballantyne, Selma and Bob Craig, Steve and Conchita Holden and Vicar Denny Key. The couple stayed on in Amman after the wedding, but intend to leave on January 7 for a proper honeymoon in the Far East. Mabrouk, and the Star family wishes you a very happy long life together: "may you live in luxury and bliss and have many, many children!"

British Ambassador John Coles will soon be leaving Amman, to be replaced by Tony Reeves. We

The Friends go into the new year with a programme that pays due attention to the winter weather, so that more of January's activities are indoors rather than out.

The one trip for the month is to the sunnier climes of Aqaba and Egypt's Pharos Island. It is an overnight trip planned for Thursday/Friday 28-29 January. For JD 20, participants will get the bus trip to and from Aqaba, one night, dinner and breakfast at the Aqaba hotel and the boat trip to the island. Tips for drivers, etc will also be included. A picnic lunch for Friday should be brought by members themselves. The trip is open to members only (exceptions may be made for out-of-the-country guests visiting Jordan briefly) and reservations and 50 per cent deposit must be with Almut Busse (H.842029 O. 844636) by 15 January.

Non-members have the opportunity to join at the FOA annual general membership meeting which will be held at the Department of Antiquities Registration Centre on Monday 18 January at 7.00 pm.

Lectures

On Monday 11 January at 8.00 pm Dr. Fawzi Zayadine of the Department of Antiquities and Dr. Joseph Groen, director of the Cultural Resource Management Project will lecture in English on the recent discoveries on the lower terrace of the Amman Citadel. Location is the French Cultural Centre on Jebel Luwailah.

The end of the month brings a lecture on rugs entitled "Anatolian flat-weaves and related archaeological evidence" by Dr. Herwig Bartels, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Amman. The lecture will be at 7.00 pm at the American Centre of Oriental Research.



Steve and Erica Collier share a toast

wish Ambassador Coles the very best in his new posting.

International Food Competition.

Last Monday British Airways had a double celebration: the presentation of its new Club World and Club Europe Services, and on January 1, 1988, the British Airways and Marriott Hotel partnership scheme. For this, Manager Eric Burdon and the Amman staff gave a demonstration showing the services on these two new classes, which Eric said were specifically designed to "be responsive to customers' needs". He said everyone approved the new face of British Airways, which is now the largest airline in Western Europe, with 200 aircraft flying and 45 more on order, and 40,000 staff.

The new services were a special package to serve business travellers, and the television time shown did really prove that. And the scrumptious food, oh! Talking about food, after serving their guests with a glass of champagne, British Airways served a light lunch, Asian style, all of which almost, but not quite, reached the level of the new service, which besides providing 100 hotels, allows the use of private lounges at Heathrow and Kennedy airports, with desks, telephones, and all that businessmen could need in between stops.

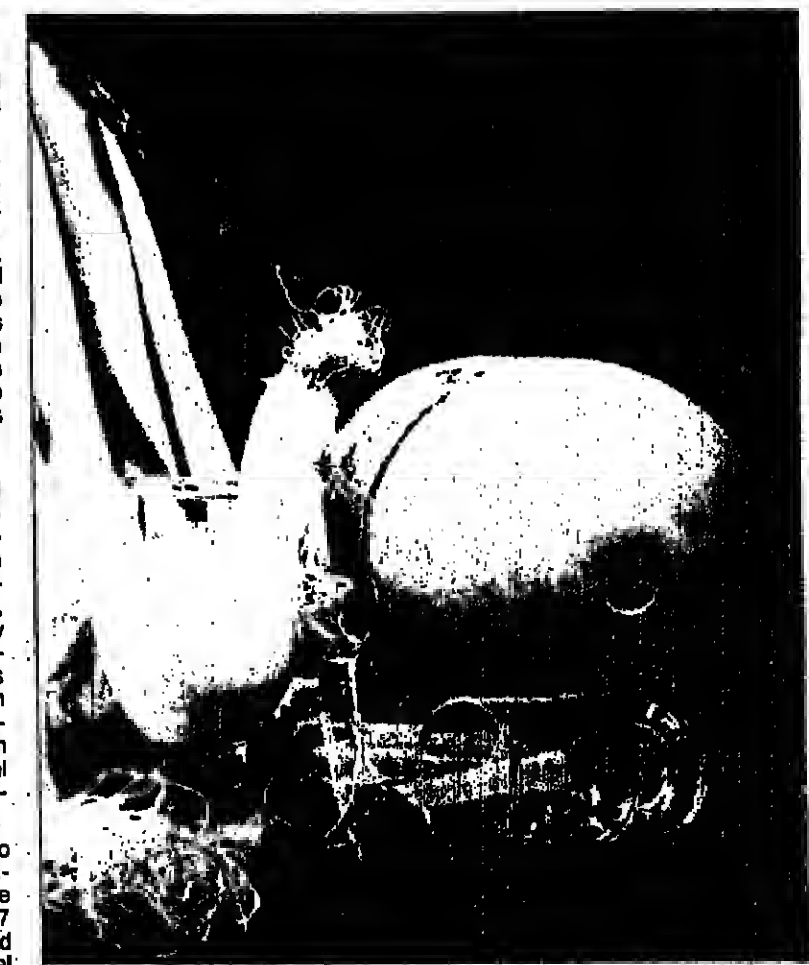
Also there was Michael Lightfoot, BA fleet director, who participated in the show, but later took time out to demonstrate to guests the new china service now in use, and samples of the food offered on board. It does look it could be a worthwhile venture, especially, as Michael said, one would only be paying the full economy class fare... no discount! But maybe some lucky (and good) customers could hope for special treatment?

Feyez Al-Shewwe, general manager, and Adel Elish Habib the sales manager of Hotel Jerusalem International and Husain El-Dabran, the manager of Turkish Products Exhibition Co. Ltd., have left Amman for Istanbul. They have gone to finalize the agreement with the Turkish companies and the famous Divan Hotel, which are participating in a Turkish Export Goods Exhibition and Turkish Festival to be held at the Hotel Jerusalem International 27 January - 4 February 1988.

There are more than 100 of the largest Turkish industrial companies participating along with a group of 14 folklore dancers, 7 international fashion models, and five cooks from the Divan Hotel who won the second prize in an

Margaret Matthews, Dr. Cedric and Jeannette Mortimer, all of the British Council, Eric and Sylvia Burdon, and making his annual visit, the Reverend Leslie Savage, British Bank of the Middle East, Eric and Valerie Gill, Frieda Muller, Anne O'Neill, Trevor and Bridget Cairns, Grindley's John and Jane Miller, Shell Company's Rob and Seline Craig, Tony and Ceilia Causton, Grah and Jane Tagney, Fitz and Pauline Walters, Peter and Sandy Rose, Anne Geoukji, Danish Commercial Office's Hane Frile, Turkish Embassy's Sovli Yurduku and Mr and Mrs Muelata Valdar, Swedish Embassy's Olaf Huldgren, whose wife just gave birth to their third boy, Australian Embassy's Victor and MIMO Rode, Brazilian Embassy's Gilberto Ferreira, Canadian Embassy's Duncan and Jane Lano and Gill and Jeannette Riehlchynski, Chinese Embassy's Mr and Mrs Shih Yen Shun and Mr and Mrs Zhong Hel Feng, Japanese Embassy's Mr Teramura, Czechoslovakian Embassy's Mr and Mrs Veclev Veverka, Yugoslavian Embassy's Mr and Mrs Yovan Vujelcovic, Polish Embassy's George Dobrowol, and Tadeusz and Kristina Rozyczki, American Embassy's Peter Enzminger, Lobaneco Embassy's Hussein and Zeina Rammal, Egyptian Embassy's Hilmi Bdeir, and Mirvat, who was in bed with a cold from which we hope she recovers soon, and Negi and Aida Ghehrli, Indian Embassy's Mr and Mrs Praveen Verma, Pakistani Embassy's Mr and Mrs Hadi Aseel, and so many others whose names are impossible to get into this page. But everyone left, some rather late, feeling confident that the new year 1988 would hopefully bring better things than last year.

Photos for our cover story this week are by the well-known photographer Aram Deraklen, who has had several successful exhibitions in the Soviet Union, in Europe, and here at home. In the introduction to a recent show of his work, Aram wrote "There are no such things as great or small themes. There is only the artist, the creator, photographer, who seeks by means chosen to suit his temperament and his outlook, to disclose his inner world, the world of feelings and experiences he has lived through."



Aram makes us take a second look at everyday objects



The Gaze Strip, 15 December 1987 - Beaten Palestinian teenager falls to ground after having been beaten by Israeli soldier and second Arab youth is hustled along by two soldiers after the Israeli soldiers stormed the Shifa Hospital to arrest Palestinians who had run for cover.



Seville, Spain, 19 December 1987 - Winner-Chess Champion Gert Kasparov (centre) throws his arms into the air after he scored a final game victory over challenger Anatoly Karpov in the World Chess Championship.



New York, 21 December - The Rev. Al Sharpton, foreground, pointing towards platform, was one of dozens arrested for blocking subway tracks during demonstrations against racism at the Borough Hall Subway Station during New York's evening rush hour.



Dubai, 17 December 1987 - Crew aboard the Mele registered cargo vessel 'Island Transporter' spray on the super structure after it caught alight when Iranian gunboats attacked the ship off Abu Musa Island in the southern Gulf.



Manilla, 23 December - Philippine Coast Guards unload bodies of victims of the sea collision between a passenger ship and an oil tanker which was brought by an inter island ship at Manilla's north harbour.



United Nations, 22 December - Ambassador Herbert S. Okun, US acting representative to the United Nations, centre, abstains during a UN Secretary Council vote on a resolution which passed by a vote of 14-0.

THE JERUSALEM STAR

Finance, business & economy

The Old Goldsmiths Market:

Yearns for the old days

By Rasim Rehim
Star Staff Writer

FOR A goldsmith like Yousef Abu Sara, who is about to sell into his 36th year at the old goldsmiths market, 1988 is not a promising year and will not be any better from 1987, rather "it will be worse than 1986", said Mr Abu Sara.

According to Mr Abu Sara, the middle-class clientele with which the 'Goldsmiths Market' identified itself since the early eighties faded away by the end of 1983. Since 1984 the local (buying and selling) gold market, has been deteriorating in relation to other market forces. "The volume of customers, their attitudes toward us, their socio-economic expose, and even their shopping modes were against the trend which existed in the mid-seventies and early eighties", said Mr Abu Sara.

He further added that, "you could not plan, or draw a business-like curve, or even forecast... I have never faced so unpredictability in what we call 'clientele mannerism'.

Moreover, the market mechanism according to most customers, was perceived as 'buy for less', and 'sell for more' with a 'special' carefree attitude", said Mr Abu Sara.

In general, he said, the year 1987 falls in the middle as compared to

1988 and previous years. The price of gold varied unfavourably, due to the prevailing economic conditions and the fluctuations in the foreign exchange market - especially the dollar - yen - dutch mark network, said Mr Abu Sara.

Nevertheless, he remarked, the prices of gold kept moving upward in a continuous manner between January and June of 1987. "We gained, for instance, a whole JD (one dinar) in the price of gold during those six months - from JD 3.250 to JD 4.250".

The markets, he added, were operating at a 50 per cent volume than that of 1986, despite that gain. After June of 1987, the market stood at its recess value and entered an "unnecessary freeze period", said Mr Abu Sara.

According to Mr Abu Sara, there is nothing called a "regular customer". The customer, he said, goes to each and every shop in the market to get more when he or she sells and pay less when he or she buys. "We have been observing this phenomenon, exactly for the last eight months", said Mr Abu Sara.

Mr Abu Sara disclosed that, the market was turned upside - down with admittance of other gold-

smiths who had no history in the trade. "There were six shops in 1982, but now there are 100 shops in the Old Goldsmiths Market. In total, there are around 300 to 320 goldsmiths in the Greater Amman Area. About 46 per cent of those goldsmiths have no previous history in the trade, and only 15 per cent of the total who actually know what gold-trading is all about," said Mr Abu Sara.

Three types of gold

According to Mr Abu Sara, there are three types of gold, the Indian, the Italian and the "BALADI" Local.

The local, he said, is a favourite because it does not involve any risk-taking in the long-term dealing market. The local, as well, does not require any excessive costs in the manufacturing process. "The Indian and the Italian gold are traded at an 80 per cent loss, even though they are preferred by most customers," said Mr Abu Sara.

He further added that, the 21-carat Indian gold forms about 5 per cent of the total inventory, and so is the case with the 18-carat Italian gold. "In fact, we are obliged to pay for the manufacturing costs of those two foreign types, which reach more than 40 per cent - added to that the customs duties.

Comparatively, the cost of manufacturing the 'Balad' Local does not exceed 4 per cent and its inter-market value is always maintained," said Mr Abu Sara.

"I should remark however," said Mr Abu Sara, "our goldsmiths in Jordan can not and will not be able to produce the 18-carat gold as that of the Italian."

Ministry Hell-mark

According to Mr Abu Sara, the traditional method of "scratching" the ingots to qualify the carat - make was not always very accurate. The Ministry's regulations were very effective and successful in introducing the laboratory-testing method of the Ministry of Trade and Industry's laboratories.

He further added that, the 21 carat gold is 875 grammes and the 18 carat is 750 grammes. The ultimate measure of 1,000 grammes (the "9999" one kilogramme as quoted by the Star) is 24 carats.

The method introduced by the Ministry is that, ingots have to be perfectly tested by the goldsmiths before they are taken to the Ministry for testing and later for the Hell-mark. Otherwise, inadequate ingots are broken and disqualified if not proper making has not been proceeded.

"As an old-limer, I am very happy and comfortable with the Ministry's regulations. The charge of 10,000 per one gramme is not expensive (JD 3,000 per one kilogramme), and has given the good and honest goldsmiths heart-felt satisfaction," said Mr Abu Sara.

Economic Adhocracy

By Jawad Anani



The floating of interest rates

Ingrue with Dr. Mehor Shukri, deputy governor of the Central Bank, that interest rates should not be floated. There is no such thing anyway as floated interest rates, not anywhere. But there is a closely-knit money market with easy transmission mechanism and which can easily respond to changes in the market forces by deliberate action imposed by the central monetary authority.

The call by Dr. Fehed Fanok to float interest rates is becoming a blee on his part which is prompted by his deep belief in the free market mechanism. Yet to speak of floated cucumbers or clothes is not like talking of floated interest rates.

In Jordan, interest rates have been a policy objective, even more so than the stock of credit or even the stock of money. For one thing, interest rates are not allowed by an effective Ottoman ordinance to exceed nine per cent. Second, interest rates are not determined by the risk and maturity of loans all the time; instead the term structure is determined by a host of social and distribution factors. A good deal of the developmental long-term credit was determined outside the market. To try to unwind the system by floating does not necessarily create the proper adjustment process across the board.

What is needed is a more stringent arbitrar role by the Central Bank. The Bank, as a supervisory body, must make sure that all banks abide by its decisions. Once that happens, the decrease in the level of interest on commercial credit will be much more effective. Thus, with all banks and other institutions, behaving within the limits, interest rate policies can be made more effective.

Floating of interest rates is too good to be true. But we can streamline our interest rates to make more sense with the acceptable exlome which apply to this rate.

In a telephone conversation with the Governor of the Central Bank, Mr. Hussein Al-Kassem, I developed a deeper sense of reassurance that the central monetary authority of Jordan is fully aware of the need to beef up the money market by gradual yet prompt action. One of those is the creation of a secondary market for government bonds and bills.

Such a market exists for bonds only nominally and de jure. Yet trading in these instruments is still weak-it does not exist for all practical purposes.

Reviving this secondary market, and enlivening other rigid flows is a move on the right track towards creating a more structural financial market in Jordan.

TENDER'S NOTICE

The Directorate of Projects/Ministry of Education announces the issuing of the following tenders which are part of the sixth Educational Project No. 2378- Jo., sponsored by the World Bank:

Tender's No.	Title	Fees JD
1/88	General & library furniture	15,000
2/88	Laboratory furniture	10,000
3/88	Science laboratories equip	15,000
4/88	Vocational educational w/shops	15,000
5/88	Women's education	15,000
6/88	Arts & crafts	5,000
7/88	Sports equipment	10,000
8/88	Audio visual aids	10,000
9/88	Office equipment	10,000

Interested bidders are invited to collect tenders documents from Procurement Division at the Directorate of Projects/Ministry of Education, starting Jan. 4, 1988 against the payment of the above fees. Closing data will be 10:00 a.m. of March 20, 1988.

Director of Projects

GOLD IN JORDAN

THE FOLLOWING schedule exhibits the prices of gold as they were quoted by the Jerusalem Star from Abu Sara Jewellers (Yousef Abu Sara) on the dates mentioned herebelow:

	A	B	C	B/A	C/B	C/A
	30.12.88	24.6.87	28.12.87			
JO	JO	JO	JO	%	%	%
18 ct. JD per gramme	3,350	3,700	4,000	10.48	6.11	18.40
21 ct. JD per gramme	3,900	4,250	4,800	8.87	8.24	17.65
24 ct. JD per gramme	4,850	5,100	5,800	6.98	6.80	20.43
One kilogramme (9999)	4,850,000	4,880,000	5,280,000	6.21	6.02	17.88
Quince 31 grammes x 10 c.m.	144,500	168,500	174,000	6.69	6.78	20.42
Gold sterling (18 grammes)	32,800	35,000	37,500	7.89	7.14	15.98
Risshadi Pound (17 grammes)	28,500	30,750	33,000	7.99	7.32	15.78

B/A - The increase in percentage terms over a period of six months between 30.12.1988 and 24.6.1987.

C/B - The increase in percentage terms over a period of six months between 24.6.1987 and 28.12.1987.

C/A - The increase in percentage terms over a one-year period between 30.12.1988 and 28.12.1987.

International BUSINESS Opportunities



New appointment at Snow International

AMMAN (Star) — Snow International regret to announce the death of Gordon Wilson, OBE, regional area director, Middle East, on 14 December 1987. Mr. Wilson, who was based in Amman, had worked in Jordan for over 10 years. He was due to retire at the end of 1987, and his sudden death came as a great shock to his family and his friends and colleagues.

Mr Wilson played a prominent part in the construction of Queen Alia Airport as deputy project manager and was awarded the OBE in 1984 for services to British and community interests in Jordan.

Dr. Basam A Burgen has now been appointed Area Manager, Jordan office for Snow International.

Dr. Burgen has made a particular study of steelwork structures and was recently at the Department of Civil Engineering, the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, where he lectured on structural design and carried out research on new design methods.

He has also had experience in the field of consulting engineering and is the author of many papers on various aspects of structural design and computer analysis.

WTG International, Financial offices,
P.O. Box 12,
Bury BL9 0NQ,
Lancashire,
England, U.K.

Kamebea Limited, Chems,
d728/4 Turku's House,
Kolo Thompson road,
Opposite Adra Stn,
P.O. Box 3437,
Accra - Ghana.

International Business Div,
Keiji Yamashita,
Director,
Suntelephone Co., Ltd.,
2 - 1 - Chome, Ningyo - Cho,
Tokyo - Japan.

Raw Materials

FMM Industry Supply GMBH,
Berliner Allee 30,
4000 Düsseldorf 1,
Federal Republic of Germany.

Clockwork International Inc.,
Booker T. Jones,
President,
P.O. Box 91535,
Pasadena, California 91109-1535,
U.S.A.

Brasas International,
2170 W. Broadway Suite 530,
Anaheim Ca. 92804,
Telex: 5106006 133 Brecas Intl,
U.S.A.

CXA Enterprises, Inc.,
Carlos D. Abulnole,
President,
P.O. Box 4407,
Diamond Bar,
California 91765,
U.S.A.

World-Wide Encounters Inc.,
Spirio Kouletis,
P.O. Box 897,
Walnut, Ca. 91789,
United States.

Seagull International,
Moh'd Iqbal Salim,
Managing Partner,
Hakim Mansour (1st Floor),
P.O. Box 2073,
Dhaka, Bangladesh.

FOR PROSPECTIVE buyers and importers of Arab gum, shearings, ginger, cashew nuts, millet, guinea corn, sorghum, groundnuts, maize, beans, onions and other products. Contact: Afrique Enterprises, the manager, gift shop, Sukura Hotel, P.O. Box 2273, Sokoto - Nigeria.

KHAWAJA MUNIR & Co. invites proposals of joint ventures with Jordanian companies. They are manufacturers, exporters, importers, govt. contractors and general order suppliers. Contact: 42, Masjid road, Sector F-8/4, Islamabad, P.O. Box 1874, Islamabad - Pakistan; TELEX: 6811 Nabla-PK, ATT: Khawaja Munir Ahmed.

AMMAN (Star) — The following is a list of international industrial firms wishing to establish business ties with industrial firms in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan:

Michael Bylebyl
Gothic Image
52 Springville Ave.
Amherst, N.Y. 14226,
U.S.A.

Universal Link Enterprises,
"Comer Court" 19,
Tuyenbee Circular road,
(3rd Floor) Mollieal C/A.,
Dhaka-2,
Bangladesh.

Indico Irohe Ndukwe,
P.O. Box 030743 Cotonou
RE. POP. Du Banin.

Fadhi Mehdi Muefefe For Commercial Agencies Bureau
P.O. Box 11078

Baghdad, Iraq.
Delta Industrial Services,
P.O. Box 2390 (Alwiya)
Baghdad,
Iraq.

Labour force

Rahmania Corporation,
P.O. Box 4118,
Dhaka,
Bangladesh.

Dipon Trading Corporation,
Ferdousel Haque,
Director,
House No. 14 (New),
Road No. 7,
Dhanmondi R/A,
Dhaka,
Bangladesh.

S.L.H. Withana,
No. 34/4 Fite Rd.,
Thibingasyaya - Colombo 4,
Sri Lanka.

Tony Trava & Trade PVT. Ltd.,
Rammohan S. Bi Dawatka,
Director,
21, Jallind Estate No.1,
Ground Floor,
Dr Athmaran Merchant Road,
Bombay 400 002,
India.

Investments & Joint ventures

Adnan Issa Nebil & Sons Intl,
Cairo,
P.O. Box 9138,
Amman - Jordan.

Interindex International
Trade,
P.O. Box 35,
Cairns Qld.,
Australia.

Dr. Burgen has made a particular study of steelwork structures and was recently at the Department of Civil Engineering, the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, where he lectured on structural design and carried out research on new design methods.

He has also had experience in the field of consulting engineering and is the author of many papers on various aspects of structural design and computer analysis.

AMMAN (Star) — The Jordan Valley Authority has invited local or international contractors to apply for prequalification to tender for the construction of a diversion tunnel for Al-Wahdeh Dam project on the Yarmouk River in the north of Jordan which constitutes a major component of Al-Wahdeh Dam Project.

The diversion tunnel will be about 800 metres in length and 7.75 metres in diameter.

CREDIT AND Finance Corporation (FCC) in co-operation with the Inter Arab Chamber Association ICA, is launching its first contest on foreign exchange speculation for the year 1988. The speculation will cover four currencies, Deutsch Mark, Sterling Pound, Swiss Franc and Yen, as of New York "closing" on 30 June 1988. The latest date for receiving speculation, is on 28 February 1988.

In addition to the FCC's prize of \$1,000 for the winner will carry the ICA honorary title "Dealer Of The Year".

Electrical Appliances

Neso Trade Co.,
7F 18 Chang Chun Rd,
Taipei 10413,
Taiwan.

Ferns Exports,
502 Deleam Tower,
Narman Point,
Bombay - 400 021,
India.

Simon Chen,
Executive Director,
Cmatec (Taiwan) Corp.
P.O. Box 918 (10012),
Taipei,
Taiwan R.O.C.

Steamex Australia Sales,
292 Bedok Road,
Bedok Shopping complex,
Singapore 1648,
Republic of Singapore.
Olefin Marketing Pvt. Ltd.,
81/3, Naraina Ind. Area Phase-1,
New Delhi - 110028,
India.

AMMAN (Star) — The following is a list of international exhibitions scheduled for 1988, in order of name, city, date and address of contact:

1- The Retail Merchants 77th Annual Conference; New York; 10-13 January 1988;
National Retail Merchants Association,
100 West 31 Street
New York, NY 10001, U.S.A.

2- The 11th Retail International Conference; Sydney; 2-5 October 1988;
Australian Retailers Association
St. Martin's Tower, 31 Market Street
Sydney NSW 2000, Australia

3- Stoneleigh Agricultural International Exhibition; 4-7 July 1988;
Royal Agricultural Society of England,
National Agricultural Centre,
Stoneleigh, Kenilworth,
Warwickshire,
England CV8 2LZ

4- The Brazilian Leather-Made Products and Shoes Exhibition; Sao Paulo; 12-18 January 1988;
Courmode Feires Comerciais Ltda.
Telex: (D11) 25318 FSPE BR
Brazil

5- A - The Ninth Computer International Exhibition; Lisbon; 12-17 January 1988;
B - The Seventh Construction Exhibition; Lisbon; 28 January-2 February 1988;
C - The Eighth Fashion Exhibition; Lisbon; 11-14 February 1988;
D - The First Perfume and Cosmetics Exhibition; Lisbon; 25-28 February 1988;
E - The Optics Exhibition; Lisbon; 28-29 February 1988;
F - The Seventh Gifts and Educational Instruments Exhibition; Lisbon; 8-12 April 1988;

6- The International Exhibition for Commercial Vehicles; Amsterdam; 4-31 February 1988;
Rei Amsterdam,
Europeplein,
1078 GZ,
Amsterdam,
Holland.

7- The Fifth International Exhibition for Construction Materials and Solar Energy Technology; Thessaloniki; 28 February; 8 March 1988;
C. Voulgasopoulos,
Director Exhibitions,
Helleppo,
154, Egnatia Str.,
GR 546 38 Thessaloniki,
Greece.

8- A - The International Trading Restaurants Exhibition; Amsterdam; 4-7 January 1988;
B - The Agricultural Exhibition "Equipment"; Amsterdam; 18-23 January 1988;
C - The International Exhibition for Commercial Vehicles; Amsterdam; 4-31 February 1988;

9- The Fifth International Exhibition for Construction Materials and Solar Energy Technology; Thessaloniki; 28 February; 8 March 1988;

10- The International Exhibition for Commercial Vehicles; Amsterdam; 4-31 February 1988;

11- The International Exhibition for Commercial Vehicles; Amsterdam; 4-31 February 1988;

12- The International Exhibition for Commercial Vehicles; Amsterdam; 4-31 February 1988;

13- The International Exhibition for Commercial Vehicles; Amsterdam; 4-31 February 1988;

14- The International Exhibition for Commercial Vehicles; Amsterdam; 4-31 February 1988;

15- The International Exhibition for Commercial Vehicles; Amsterdam; 4-31 February 1988;

16- The International Exhibition for Commercial Vehicles; Amsterdam; 4-31 February 1988;

17- The International Exhibition for Commercial Vehicles; Amsterdam; 4-31 February 1988;

18- The International Exhibition for Commercial Vehicles; Amsterdam; 4-31 February 1988;

Associação Industrial Portuguesa
Feira Internacional De Lisboa
P.O. das Industrias, 1392 Lisboa
Codex
Portugal
Telex 12282 Flport P

8- The Food Canning Technology International Exhibition; Manila; 22-28 November 1988;
Stephanie Liu,
Vp-Marketing,
1201 Nan Fung Center,
285-288 Castle Peak Road, Nt.
Hong Kong.

10- The International Food Trading Exhibition; 3D August-2 September 1988;
Food Pacific "88"
British Columbia,
Food Exhibition Limited,
190-10851 Shelbridge Way,
Richmond, B.C.,
Canada V6X 2 W8.

8- A - The International Trading Restaurants Exhibition; Amsterdam; 4-7 January 1988;
B - The Agricultural Exhibition "Equipment"; Amsterdam; 18-23 January 1988;
C - The International Exhibition for Commercial Vehicles; Amsterdam; 4-31 February 1988;

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17- The International Exhibition for Commercial Vehicles; Amsterdam; 4-31 February 1988;

18- The International Exhibition for Commercial Vehicles; Amsterdam; 4-31 February 1988;

19- The International Exhibition for Commercial Vehicles; Amsterdam; 4-31 February 1988;

20- The International Exhibition for Commercial Vehicles; Amsterdam; 4-31 February 1988;

21- The International Exhibition for Commercial Vehicles; Amsterdam; 4-31 February 1988;

22- The International Exhibition for Commercial Vehicles; Amsterdam; 4-31 February 1988;

The private sector
A potential investor

By Ahmad Shaker
Special to The Star

ACCORDING TO the Ministry of Planning, unemployment has been one of the major factors behind the economic slowdown in 1988. In December of 1987, the Ministry has published a full report recommending the policies which it deemed important to foster the bodies of our national economy.

Among the economic phenomena of 1988 were:

A - a decrease in the volume of the private sector's investments from JD 288 million to JD 220 million in 1988. The decrease in one year, and in current prices, reached 24 per cent. Although the public sector's investment rose by 23 per cent during 1988, the gross total of investments fell by 5 per cent in current prices (equivalent to 11 per cent in fixed prices).

B - a decrease in total consumption and its rates per one individual. An absolute decrease was observed in the level of private consumption from JD 1,421 million in 1985 to JD 1,282 million in 1988, in other words a decrease by 9.8 per cent.

Despite the government's current expenditures, which increase by 12 per cent in 1988, total consumption fell by 5 per cent. In current prices, total consumption fell by 5 per cent. In current prices, total consumption fell by 5 per cent.

rent prices, total consumption fell from JD 1,828 million in 1985 to JD 1,737 million in 1988.

C - a decrease in allowable income (local income added to it transfers) from JD 2,058 million in 1985 to JD 2,029 in 1988. The resulting effects, indicated a backward trend in the gross demand and a decrease in the production capacity in a number of local industries; thus, increasing unemployment.

In the light of the above three indicators, the Ministry pinpointed the following steps, which it believed would create a promising environment for the private sector's investors:

1- Replacing foreign manpower with the local manpower: In this concern, the Ministry recommended that legislations covering Social Security, wages and health be changed to encourage employers hire the local workers. The Ministry, as well, called for a review of the foreign workers' taxes and duties regulations to discourage employers from hiring them.

2- Advertising for opportunities for Jordanians to work abroad.

3- Activating the role of monetary policy: In this regard, the Ministry recommended that the rate of interest be decreased by around 1 per cent. The Ministry,

as well, recommended that a fund to secure medium and small size investments be established.

4- Amending the customs policy, the Ministry recommended that exemptions be offered to local industries, in order to upgrade the local markets and block the flow of foreign imports.

Five more steps were recommended by the Ministry, one is promoting national exports. The Ministry necessitated that, special firms be established to secure exports and encourage facilities offered to exporters. The Ministry found that Jordanian industries lacked the proper evaluation on their productivity, and recommended to group such industries within a central office to develop their production capabilities.

The Investment Encouragement Law, number 11 for 1987, stipulates that exemptions of JD 25,000 and JD 15,000 are provided for economic projects in areas under categories A and B. The Ministry recommended that those amounts be increased to JD 15,000 and JD 10,000 respectively. Moreover, the Ministry, upon evaluating the investment companies, recommended that these companies be put under government supervision to pursue a prominent position in defining new investment opportunities.

Taxes 1987



AMMAN (Star) — In an annual press conference, Mr. Salman Al-Tarawneh, director-general of the Income Tax Department disclosed that total tax revenues amounted to JD 45,335,324 during 1987, exhibiting a decrease by 5 per cent from the previous year, which amounted to JD 47,982,858 in 1986.

Although appropriated revenue was estimated at JD 58,000,000, remarked Mr. Tarawneh, the decrease was due to the exemptions stipulated in the new law number 57 for the year 1985. For instance, he added, a 30-per cent exemption was granted for rental fee in the capital's governorate, a 50-per cent exemption for other governorates, the partial export exemption, and the real estate tax exemption.

Most of the banks and other institutions, he said, were investing their funds in tax-exempted government projects. Moreover, exchange companies reported major losses which reach 50 companies, which were granted temporary exemptions, said Mr. Tarawneh.

Estimated 25,000,000 for 1988, 48.55%
Schedule of tax collections between 1985 and 1987, and expectations for 1988 (in Jordan Dinars)

Year
1985
1986
1987
Estimated 25,000,000 for 1988, 48.55%
Schedule of tax collections between 1985 and 1987, and expectations for 1988 (in Jordan Dinars)

Year	Shareholding Companies	Individuals	Employees	Grand Total
1985	32,127,323 59%	15,282,882 28%	7,080,598 13%	54,490,803 100%
1986	24,763,032 59%	16,381,519 32%	7,838,307 18%	47,982,858 100%
1987	21,012,730 48.3%	18,492,055 38.3%	7,830,539 17.4%	47,335,324 100%
Estimated 25,000,000 for 1988, 48.55%	20,400,000 37.0%	9,000,000 18.3%	5,600,000 11.2%	35,000,000 71.8%



AMMAN (Star) — KLM Royal Dutch Airlines in co-operation with the Netherlands Board of Tourism present the Great Airline Show for enjoyment and business alike.

Since 1988 Holland calling show is touring the world in 78 countries served by KLM. Mr. Nejeeb Fakhoury, general manager of KLM in Jordan, invited agents, government officials and leading business people as well as press to attend this spectacular show, which will take place at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel on 9 January, 1988 at 6 p.m.

The show will consist of mine act, slide show, end of course Dutch food will be tested in this delightful evening with the real flavour of Holland.

GOLD IN JORDAN

AMMAN (Star) — Prices on Tuesday, 5 January 1988 were as follows:

18 ct. JD 4,000 per gramme
21 ct. JD 4,500 per gramme
24 ct. JD 5,000 per gramme
One kilogramme (9999) JD 5,160,000
Ounce..... JD 174,000
(31 grammes x 10 c.m.)
Gold Sterling..... JD 37,000
(8 grammes)
Refined Pound..... JD 32,500
(Seven grammes)

Source: Yousef Abu Sara, Jewellers, Amman.

Marriott's pride:
Consistent service

AMMAN (Star) — For the third year in a row, Marriott Hotels and Resorts has been named the "top hotel chain" in a survey conducted by one of the industry's leading travel trade publications, Business Travel News.

A total of 1,831 corporate travel planners responded to questions on 74 different hotel systems, and Marriott retained its position as the top hotel chain by accumulating the best overall average score (4.14 out of a possible 5.00). Marriott achieved this year's ranking by placing first in five of 11 service categories.

Quality of facilities for non-resort meetings (score — 4.33)
Quality of facilities for resort meetings (score — 4.39)
Quality of frequent travel programme (score — 4.12)
Ease in arranging group travel and meetings (score — 4.21)
Quality of corporate discount programme (score — 3.78)

According to Business Travel News, Marriott Hotels and Resorts placed in the top 25 in all 11 categories and "beat out" such chains as Hyatt, Hilton, Four Seasons, Intercontinental and Westin. Explaining Marriott's success, Mr

Randall A. Smith, president of Smith said, "Marriott is known for its services, and they go to a great extent to make sure they maintain their service levels."

Especially important to business travelers, are Marriott's first place ratings in corporate rate discount is available to business travelers at 175 hotels and resorts.

DOLLAR RATES
Spot (Interbank)
London (AP)
6 December 1988

£	1.8585-75
SF	1.3250-60
LIT	1198-1201
FF	5.5070-5.100
DEM	1.8275-88
DFL	1.8310-20
BLF	34.04-07
DKR	8.2800-50
NKR	8.3150-3200
SKR	5.9000-50
Yen	125.32-42
AST	11.45-48
CAS	1.2950-70
Pesets	119.65-70
Fin\$	4.0000-20
Drekhma	129.30-80

Dollar-Gold
London (AP)

MIDMORNING DOLLAR rates compared with rates in Europe late Tuesday:

	Wednesday 6-1-88	Tuesday 5-1-88
German Mark	1.6335	1.8275
Swiss Franc	1.3320	1.3255
French Franc	5.6285	5.6085
Dutch Guilder	1.8348	1.8325
Italian Lire	1,201.50	1,197.75
Canadian Dollar	1.2912	1.2985
Sterling Pound	1.8210	1.8570

Bullion....Per Troy Ounce

Gold-London	481.60	477.75
Gold-Zurich	481.00	478.50
Gold-Hong Kong	481.98	477.42
Silver-London	8.77	8.57

EXCHANGE RATES

			JD (Fils)	BUY	SELL
SR	90	91	\$	329.7	335.8
LBL	0.7	0.71	£	810.8	825.3
BRL	9.2	9.3	DEM	204.4	210.4
IRD	175	180	BF	251.4	258.4
KWD	1235	1240	FF	60.5	82.2
EGP	158	160	YEN	283.3	289.8
UED	92.5	93	DFL	181.8	187
QR	92.5	93.5	SKR	56.2	57.7
OMR	875	885	LIT	27.7	28.5
BHD	890	900	BLF	97.7	100.2

EURO — DEPOSIT RATES

	\$	DEM	FF	DFL	LIT	SF	Yen		Sterling Pound
1 M	6 15/16	3 1/4	8 5/8	4 7/16	10 5/8	2 1/4	4	1 M	8 13/16
2 M	7 1/16	3 5/16	8 3/4	4 9/16	11 1/8	2 5/8	4 1/16	2 M	8 15/18
3 M	7 3/16	3 5/16	8 15/16	4 5/8	11 1/4	2 7/8	4 1/8	3 M	9 1/16
6 M	7 5/16	3 7/16	9 1/8	4 11/16	11 5/8	3 1/8	4 3/16	4 M	9 1/10
9 M	7 9/16	3 5/8	9 1/8	4 3/4	11 7/8	3 1/4	4 3/16	5 M	9 3/16
1 Year	7 3/4	3 11/16	9 1/8	4 13/16	11 7/8	5 5/16	4 3/16	6 m	9 5/16
2 Years	8 1/4	4.00	9 3/16					9 M	9 7/16
3 Years	8 5/8	4 4/16						1 year	9 5/8
4 Years	6 7/8	5.00							
5 Years	9 1/10	5 3/8							

Source: Credit and Finance Corp. Amman-Jordan, 6 January 1988.

Jordanian businessmen form a tri-committee

AMMAN (Star) — Chaired by Mr. Mamoun Abu-Hassan, head of the Jordanian Business Association, the Association's board of directors held its meeting on Monday, 4 January 1988 and formed three committees which will take up various duties within the Association's functions in the course of this year 1988.

The three committees, Economic, Foreign Relations and Research and Studies will endeavour to foster the cause and objectives of the association and strengthen the Association's role in the country's economic system.

The Jordanian-Egyptian business council is due to meet in Aqaba by 25 February 1988. The council's meetings will discuss the possible methods of co-operation between the two countries' private sectors. The Jordanian-Egyptian Investment Holding Company and

the Arab Land Link will be among the issues on the Council's agenda.

More details about the Association's functions and objectives will be published by the Star in the following week in a comprehensive special report by Diene Chlangwa.

Aqaba news

AMMAN (Star) — A new bulletin has been published by the Aqaba Chamber of Commerce, as of January 1988. The bulletin contains three important business topics about trade situations and business prospects in the Aqaba region. Moreover, open letters were addressed to tradesmen, which initiated the 'dialogue form' to discuss Aqaba's business environment, aimed at creating a collective effort to foster Aqaba's business potential.

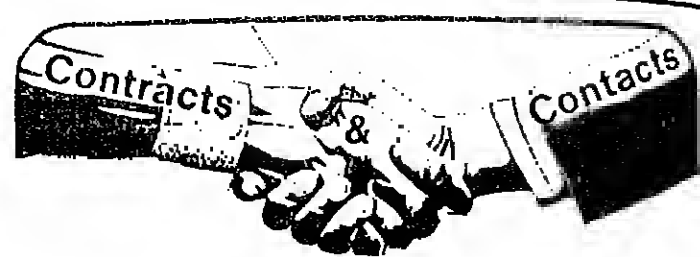
A series of articles from that 'super bulletin', entitled the Economic Port, will be published by the star in later weeks ahead.



Vessels Arriving Aqaba Port Under Gargour Shipping Agency

Red Sea Area Services

Serving Area	Name Of Line	Name Of Vessel	Arrival Date
A) FAREAST:- (CONTAINER + ROD + CONV.)	Mitsui O.S.K. LINES	PRDSER WDRD	09/01/88
		Christoffer	10/01/88
		OLDENDORFF	
		GLDRIDUS AGE	20/01/88
		EASTERN	
B) FAREAST:- (B/Bulk)	Africa Ocean Line	SPLENDOUR	26/01/88
		CONMAN I	02/02/88
		EASTERN HARMONY	07/03/88
		ATINUKA ABIOLA	07/02/88
C) SOUTH EUROPE:- (CONTAINER + ROD + CONV.)	Sudan Shipping Line Ltd.	6LUJE NILE	23/01/88
		WHITE NILE	05/02/88
D) U.S.A.:- (CONTAINER + ROD + CONV.)	Sudan Shipping Line Ltd.	KHARTOUM	25/01/88
E) SOUTH EUROPE/ EAST AFRICA:- (CONTAINER + ROD)	Lloyd Trieste Lins	DUIND 12/67	07/01/88
		SISTIANA 1/86	04/02/88
		DUINO 2/86	22/02/88
		SISTIANA 3/86	21/03/88
F) U.S.A.- CANADA-AUSTRI- ALIA (BULK)	Gearbulk Line	FOTINI L	12/01/88
		POSEIDON-	20/01/88
		BREEZE	
G) RED SEA (CONVENTIONAL)	Pan Arab Line	GDRTYS	28/01/88
		ALIDRISI	30/01/88



• TENDER NO. 27F/87. Insurance coverage. Marine open cover (all risks) for the Jordan Phosphate Mines Co. for the period 1 February 1988 - 31 March 1989. Tender documents are available at the Co's Supplies Dept./Shmelsani for JD 15. Closing date: 11 January 1988.

• TENDER NO'S. 556, 551, 554, 555 and 533/87. Supply of the following for the General Supplies Dept. 1) underwater electrical pump; 2) loaders; 3) school desks; 4) underwater pump for Al-Walleh Well (No. 1) and 5) re-investment insurance coverage for the Dept.'s warehouses. Tender documents are available at the Dept./Salt Street for JD 3, 50, 50, 3 and 5 respectively. Closing dates: 29 February, 30 January, 20 January, 30 January and 11 January 1988 respectively.

• TENDER NO. 26F/87. Medical treatments. Tender documents are available at the Jordan Phosphate Mines Co. for JD 15. Closing date: 11 January 1988.

• SUPPLY OF stationery for the Jordanian Armed Forces. Tender documents are available at the JAF's Tenders Committee for JD 30. Closing date: 27 January 1988.

• TENDER NO. 194/87. Purchase of full electronic telephone Pebb for the Arab Potash Co. Tender documents are available at the Co's Purchases Dept./Shmelsani for JD 10. Closing date: 9 February 1988.

• SUPPLY OF textile for the Jordanian Armed Forces. Tender documents are available at JAF's Tenders Committee for JD 60. Closing date: 31 January 1988.

• INVITATION FOR consultative companies to conduct a comprehensive study of all the schools in the Kingdom aimed at adopting a "Permanent Maintenance Program". Tender documents are available at the Government Tenders Directorate for JD 10 as from 2 January 1988. Closing date: 30 January 1988.

• TENDER NO. 1/88. Supply of 1,000 tonnes of crude palmolive oil for the Universal Co. For Modern Industries. Tender documents are available at the Co's Commercial Dept. (telephone: 603782, 603783) for JD 5. Closing date: 31 January 1988.

• INSURANCE COVERAGE for the Farmers Union at the Jordan Valley (vehicles, tractors, warehouses and imports). Tender documents are available at the Union's Liaison Office (telephone: 668141, P.O. Box 921025) for JD 10. Closing date 9 January 1988.

• TENDER NO. 21/88. Printing of the 1987 annual report for the Jordan Electricity Authority. Tender documents are available at the Authority's Supplies Division. Tender bond 5 per cent of bid value. Closing date: 18 January 1988.

• CONSTRUCTION OF a hall for the Al-Qualra Municipality's resort. Tender documents are available at the Municipality for JD 5. Closing date: 10 January 1988. Tender bond: 5 per cent of bid value.

• SUPPLY OF light unit for Me'an Government. Tender documents are available at the governorate for JD 5. Closing date: 11 January 1988. Tender bond: 5 per cent of bid value.

• STUDIES AND designs for the Construction of the Greater Amman Municipality. Consulting companies are invited to contact the Municipality's Tenders Committee for JD 30. Tender bond: JD 1,500,000. Closing date: 1 February 1988.

• TENDER NO. 1/88. Paving of asphalt for the control tower at Queen Alia International Airport. Tender documents are available at the Royal Jordanian's offices for JD 25. (Housing Bank Centre, 11th floor). Tender bond: 10 per cent of bid value. Closing date: 31 January 1988.

• TENDER NO. MHE/91-87/KOJ. Purchase of the following for the General Supplies Department: 1) Civil engineering equipment; 2) Instruments for biology, chemistry, physics and computer; 3) business equipment; 4) laboratory equipment; 5) business administration equipment; 6) miscellaneous equipment and instruction materials; 7) mechanical engineering, chemical engineering, electrical engineering (wiring, radio & TV) equipment. (the above materials to be of an American origin). Tender documents are available at the Dept./Salt Street for JD 10. Tender bond (or a certified cheque) is a pre-requisite. Closing date: 25 February 1987.

• TENDER NO. 1/66. Supply of brick retainers for the Jordan Phosphate Mines Co. Tender documents are available at the Co's offices in Hala for JD 10. Closing date: 8 February 1966.

• CONSTRUCTION OF a house for teachers at Al-Rashid-ayah Village. Tender documents are available at the Education Directorate / Aqaba District for JD 5. Closing date: 9 January 1966.

• TENDER NO. 1/53/87. Consulting companies are invited to supervise the third Urban Development Project. Tender documents are available at the Tenders Section / Urban Development Department for JD 50. Closing date: 23 January 1988. (telephone: B99361 P.O. Box 927193).

Amman Financial Market A decade in history

By Rasim Rahim
Star Staff Writer

BEING THE origin of fund-raising and notes-issuing, the Amman Financial Market has set a record of success in the field. Despite the economy's size, Jordan is now a centre of attractions by prominent international firms.

According to Dr. Sabbagh, the Market's director, total international investments amounted to \$5,000,000 during 1986 and 1987, and is likely to increase for 1988. According to the market's figures, the industrial sector's volume of total market reached JD 93,000,000 during 1987, a proportion 63 per cent of the total market.

Although the market is ten years old, it has played a key

role in the country's money market. It has over the ten-year period, regulated the trading of stock issues and monitored the race of corporate build-up in the country's economy.

The market's involvement in the economy has been widely successful, particularly in amending the company act and introducing corporate and development bonds.

Touching on the international stock drama, dating back to the 19 October 1987 crash, Dr. Sabbagh said the world economy will never fall again in the Black Monday's crisis, dating back to 1929. Moreover, he said, "our market was in no way vulnerable to such particular episode in the world's financial market."

He confirmed that the Amman Financial Market was totally secure and safe in the face of such down-trends. For one reason the market was totally isolated and isolated as far as note issues are concerned.

Nevertheless, he pinpointed that, during 1987, the market witnessed high trading records as compared to the previous years, and that 1988 will be better than 1987 in the light of the economic boom especially in the industrial sector.

With the existence of international investments in the market, amounting to \$5,000,000, the market has proved its strong position and regional potential, said Dr. Hisham Al-Sabbagh, in a press conference marking the 10th anniversary of the Amman Financial Market.

• Middlemen: Over a 10-year period the number of middlemen rose from nine in 1978 to 27 middlemen in 1987. Since 1982, middleman did not increase in number; accordingly their number (27) has been for the past six years.

Their capital, as well, rose considerably from JD 170,000 in 1978 to JD 40,665,000. Figures for 1982 show a total of JD 39,980,000 as compared to JD 9,900,000 in the previous two years 1980 and 1981.

• Companies: According to the Market's statistics, the number of included (listed) companies at the end of 1987 reached 122 companies. At the regular market the number of trading companies reached 105, while at the over-the-counter market the number reached 13 companies. The remaining four companies were awaiting "listing" in 1987.

As compared to 1978, the number of included companies reached 57 and only at the regular market. With the establishment of the over-the-counter market on 20 February 1982, 13 companies were included in that market, and remained the same in number by the end of 1987.

Noteworthy to say, the number of included companies rose respectively by 1982, 1983 and 1984; from 72 in 1981 to 115, 126, and 131 respectively.

• Shareholders: A total of 611,000 shareholders were listed by the end of 1987. Comparatively, their number at the end of 1978 only reached 181,000.

The highest number of shareholders, was recorded at the end of 1984, reaching 712,000. Their number at the end of 1987 was the second highest throughout the 10-year period.

• Sectoral indices: Over the 10-year period, the highest recorded index was 223.0, distributed among sectors as follows. Banks and financial institutions, 206.8; Insurance, 255.2; Services, 197.2; and Industrials, 163.1.

In comparison, the lowest index record was 102.6, distributed as follows. Banks and financial institutions, 112.0; Insurance, 93.0; Services, 63.7; and Industrials, 63.9.

At the end of 1987 (using 1980 as a base = 100), sectoral indices were the following: Banks, 154.4; Insurance, 182.6; Services, 69.8; and Industrials, 98.3.

Sectoral indices, as a re-presentation of the "closing" records for each sector were variably recorded. On a vertical scale, for instance, the highest banking index was in 1982 (255.8), and the highest insurance index was in 1982 (253.8). The highest index for services was also in 1982 (170.5), and so was the highest industrial index in 1982 (147.3).

• General indices: Over a seven-year period, share prices recorded the following closing indices:

1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
111.5	176.9	203.5	153.4	119.5	115.7	106.5	117.3

On a horizontal scale, the following changes were observed (in percentage terms)

80-81	81-82	82-83	83-84	84-85	85-86	86-87
+58.855	+15.037	-24.819	-22.099	-3.180	-7.952	+10.141

• Shares and Contracts: Over a 10-year period the number of handled shares rose from 2,429,151 in 1978 to 99,109,881 at the end of 1987. The change in percentage terms, between 1976-1979, 1979-1980, 1980-1981, 1981-1982, 1982-1983, 1983-1984, 1984-1985, 1985-1986, 1986-1987, was as follows: 189.0, 166.2%, 68.0%, 56.8%, 33.4%, (33.2%), (8.6%), 31.1% AND 102.6% respectively.

As regards the number of contracts reaching 120,183 at the end of 1987 as compared to 6,397 at the end of 1978, the following changes were recorded: 87.7%, 79.8%, 77.6%, 60.3%, 18.5%, (39.8%), 20.5%, 26.1% and 76.8% respectively.

• Trading volume: Throughout the 10-year period, the trading volume rose considerably from one year to another except at the end of 1984 and 1985. It picked up back again by the end of 1986 and 1987.

In respective order, the trading volume (in Jordan Dinars) in 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986 and 1987 was as follows: 2,429,151; 6,534,662; 17,397,665; 29,231,088; 45,840,066; 81,136,606; 40,619,292; 37,297,980; 46,696,265 and 99,109,881.

The change in percentage terms was as follows: 169.0, 186.2, 66.0, 58.6, 33.4, (33.2), (6.6), 31.1, and 102.6 per cent.

Another week, another decade

By Rasim Rahim
Star Staff Writer

ALTHOUGH LANDSCAPING is an engineering science, the method used by this science to magnify topographic particulars are best suited in the field of finance. In such manner, having surveyed the market on a ten-year basis, a weekly pictorial prompts an action on our part. This week is different in character, the reason being is that two days fell in 1987 and the other three days are in 1988.

As a reminder to our readers, the Jerusalem Star adopts a two-day weekly analysis, starting on Tuesday and ending on Monday of the following week. Thursday and Friday are a two-day market holiday. Therefore, our weekly analysis can be scrutinized, as usual, by next week and later weeks. This week, we provide a daily analysis of the trading activities between 29 December 1987 and 4 January 1988.

TUESDAY, 29 DECEMBER 1987: The shares of 56 companies were handled at a market volume of JD 1,339,688 executed through 584 contracts. Total shares handled reached 578,120. Sectoral handling was distributed into 18 banks, 7 insurance, 4 services and 27 industrials. 17 companies gained in their prices of shares, 5 banks, 2 insurance, 2 services and 8 industrials. 20 companies lost, 9 banks, 3 insurance, and 8 industrials. 19 companies had no change in their price of shares, 4 banks, 2 insurance, 2 services and 11 industrials. The distribution of sectoral trading in percentage terms was: banks, 57.45%, insurance, 8.67%, services, 67%, and industrials, 26.7%.

WEDNESDAY, 30 DECEMBER 1987: As the last day in a yearly trading, a total of 790,474 shares were handled for 62 companies. Total market volume amounted to JD 1,349,981 and a total of 767 contracts were recorded. 30 companies gained in their prices of shares, 8 banks, 8 insurance, 3 services and 11 industrials. 14 companies lost, 5 banks, 2 services and 7 industrials. 18 companies had no change in their price of shares, 5 banks, 4 insurance, and 9 industrials. In sectoral handling, the distribution in percentage terms was: banks, 50.08%, insurance, 5.67%, services, 1.48%, and industrials, 42.77%.

SATURDAY, 2 JANUARY 1988: As the last day of the year, trading was slower as compared to Tuesday and Wednesday. On Saturday, the market volume amounted to JD 322,800, total shares reached 336,078, and the number of contracts was 309. A total of 23 companies, recorded active trading, 6 banks, 2 insurance, and 15 industrials. 8 companies gained in the price of shares, 2 banks, and 4 industrials. 16 companies lost in their share prices, 3 banks, 2 insurance, and 11 industrials. One bank had no change in the price of its shares on Saturday.

SUNDAY, 3 JANUARY 1988: The shares of 25 companies were handled, with a total of 441,961 shares. The market volume, as well, amounted to JD 547,373 executed through 544 contracts. 10 companies gained in their price of shares, 2 banks, 1 insurance, 1 service, and 5 industrials. Four companies had no change in their share prices, 1 bank, and 3 industrials. In sectoral handling, distribution in percentage terms was: banks, 6.21%, insurance, 2.00%, services, .02%, and industrials, 89.77%.

MONDAY, 4 JANUARY 1988: On Monday total shares reached 517,572 distributed among 590 contracts. The trading volume amounted to JD 627,145, and the number of trading companies reached 28 companies. 10 companies gained in their price of shares, 2 banks, 1 insurance and 6 industrials. 11 companies lost, 5 banks, 1 service and 5 industrials. 7 companies had no change in their price of shares, 1 insurance, 1 service, and 5 industrials. Of the total market, sectoral handling was distributed into: banks, 3.73%, insurance, 0.21%, services, 0.06%, and industrials, 96%.

Eagle Distilleries

Special to The Star

EAGLE DISTILLERIES Company was established in 1953 on 15,000 square metres of land and ten thousand square metres of buildings. Located at the outskirts of Zarka alongside the Zarka River.

Since 1953, the company grew in size and diversified into the following four divisions:

1) Pure Alcohol Division:

Produces pure medicinal alcohol and industrial alcohol using fresh fruits and dates as raw material. Pure medicinal alcohol is sold to the military and civilian medical and pharmaceutical establishments. Industrial alcohol is sold to many factories and printing shops and used as solvent in many industries.

2) Alcohol Beverages Division:

Produces the world famous Arak Haddad and Arak El-Karmeh, using fresh enlaid seeds and fresh alcohol. This division also produces high grade brandies which are aged in oak barrels, and several types of natural fruit liqueurs. Since 1979, this division has been bottled under license from great Britain, top quality Scotch Whisky under the label "His Excellency" and also Gin and Vodka. French Cognac is bottled under license from the proprietors in France.

3) The Winery Division of E.D.C.

The Winery of E.D.C. produces Wine and Champagne from the fresh grapes of the West Bank of Jordan. This division produces the famous Vin du Chateau and St. Catherine wines in addition to Mousseux sparkling wine and many types of sweet wines.

4) Carbon Dioxide Division (CO2) and Dry Ice Division:

E.D.C. is the only producer of Dry Ice which is produced from carbon dioxide gas at - 00 C and is used in preservation of food in airplanes and for transporting medical vaccines and in hospital use.

Also carbon dioxide (CO2) gas is produced by E.D.C. since 1971 with a capacity of 250 tonnes a year. This gas is used in soft drinks, beer, one fire extinguisher and many other uses.

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Holy struggle

PALESTINIAN UPRISING in the occupied territories continued this week, and more innocent victims fell dead or injured as a result of brutal Israeli measures of response against unarmed people.

As condemnation of Israel's policies in these areas increases in tone and sources, occupation authorities are still determined to silence the oppressed with gun-fire and more oppression. What the Israelis fail to see or continue to disregard is the fact that their occupation of Arab territories has reached its end. The facts of twenty odd years ago remain the same despite Israel's attempts to slowly expel indigenous Arab population while confiscating their lands.

Now is the time for decisions to be taken — decisions which have been procrastinated for two decades. Israel will have to accept the blatant fact that it cannot stay for ever in the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights. Just like any other colonialist force, Israel too will have to pack up and leave. In the end, the will of the people will triumph.

In the case of the Palestinian people, their struggle has been baptised in blood and suffering. The world cannot ignore their strife as it did for many long years. What Israel is attempting to hide is its shame in the occupied areas. Again and recklessly it sought to silence the voice of Palestinian struggle by bombing scores of villages and camps in Southern Lebanon, but instead a new crime was added to Israel's long and shameful record of crimes against defenceless civilians.

At this critical stage in the holy Palestinian struggle we appeal on their behalf to all nations, in the west as well as in the east, to heed their calls for justice and liberation. Above all we appeal to the American people, whose government is making them accomplices in the crime of all crimes through its refusal to take serious action against Israel.

Toward a European consensus

THE NAZI-like atrocities perpetrated by the Israeli occupation authorities against defenceless Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, have aroused world-wide concern and led to the isolation of Israel and its supporters within the world community. The Israeli barbaric actions have escalated to a point where the rest of the world cannot afford to stay unmoved by the slaughtering of innocent women and children, the arbitrary arrest of hundreds of Arab youths and the deportation of Palestinians in defiance of the Geneva convention accords.

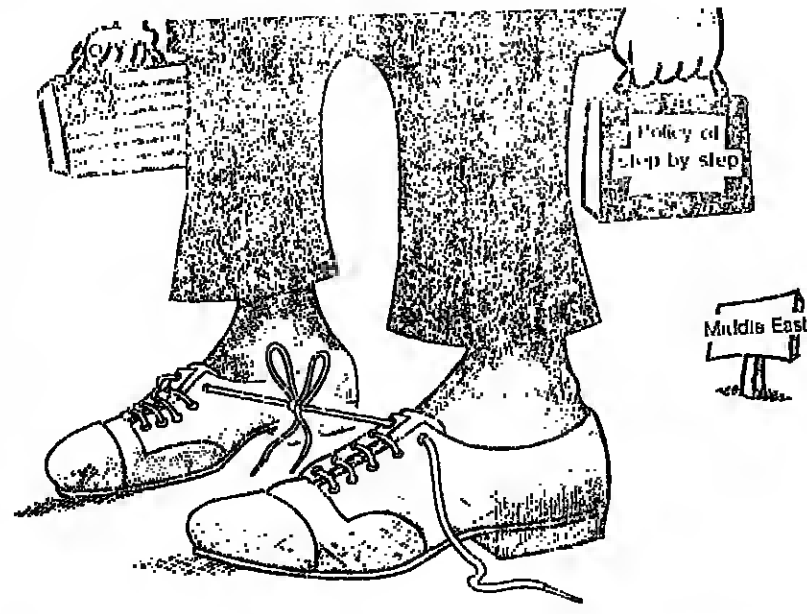
The strongest condemnation of Israel has so far come from Britain and Sweden. The two countries, members of the European Community (EC), have explicitly and unequivocally shown maximum contempt of the Israeli actions.

On her part, Britain has not confined its condemnation to verbal reaction. The British government dispatched Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. David Miller, on a fact-finding tour in the occupied territories. Mr. Miller has had the courage to defy the occupation authorities and declare, in the midst of heavily-armed Israeli troops at the Jabalia refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, that he was shocked by the Israeli measures and the unprovoked arrest of Palestinian youths. In his conversation with the officer in charge of the crackdown in the Jabalia camp, Miller unveiled the racist nature of the occupation forces and the thirst for Arab blood that has been made to pervade among Israeli troops by their military commanders and political leaders.

Miller's remarks have drawn angry reactions from some Israeli ministers. But the British foreign office was quick to declare that the minister's stand represented an official policy of Britain towards the Middle East; thus adding considerable weight to Miller's harsh condemnation of the Israeli inhuman behaviour.

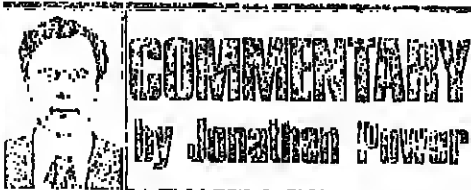
Sweden, on the other hand, coupled its condemnation of Israeli actions in the occupied territories with strong denunciation of the savage Israeli air-raid on Lebanon, in which seven infants were among many other people killed in the bombing. The Swedish government, by describing the raid as "an act of terror" and one that bears witness to vindication rather than a will for peace, has indeed exposed Israel's unwillingness to reach peace in a way never known before in the history of European dealing with the Middle East.

The British and Swedish stances deserve thanks and commendation and also need to be pursued and developed on practical bases. The two countries are now requested to follow up their stands inside the European Community with a view to building a European consensus that can pressure Israel and the United States into conceding to talk peace inside an international conference. For it is effective pressure that is now needed to put an end to the tragedy that has shocked Mr. Miller and infuriated the Swedish government.



Mahmoud Kahli — Middle East

Where land reform works



By Jonathan Power
Special to The Star

ROSEAU, (Dominica) — Once in a while the traveller sees a connection that makes his heart beat fast. What is declared impossible in one corner of the globe he finds is being done in another. Two countries, both tropical, both with colonial heritages, both with women in the ruling chair, are struggling with the politically unsettling question of land ownership.

One Corazon Aquino, in the Philippines, is clearly failing; the other, Eugenie Charles in Dominica, appears well on the way to succeeding.

Up the emerald-hued mountain, among the humming birds, green herons, waterfalls and rainbows, small farmers have been scraping a living for hundreds of years on this Caribbean island. When in 1978 it won independence from Britain, it was an island with three societies — the estate owners, wealthy, inbred and verging on the indolent; the inhabitants of the sleepy capital of Roseau, relatively prosperous; and the rest, mainly workers on the estates, poor but not impoverished, thanks to a good basic system of health services and the pure water and invigorating climate of the mountains.

Nevertheless, it was an untenable system. For the estate owners were mainly white or mulatto and the workers were black, and unhappy to continue working for a "superior" class which clearly made unproductive use of the vast areas it held.

Moreover, because the politicians of the new order were black, they felt obliged to resonate the feelings of their newly liberated electorate, not just of the privileged few. They were estate and realized early that Dominica did not have many alternatives. Other islands had the white beaches. Indeed, in this mountainous country there was hardly room to build but the shortest airstrip, much less the standard runway suitable for tourist jets. And industrialization, although the economic and political folk wisdom of the 1950s and 1960s class of emerging new nations, was well out of favour by 1978, the year of Dominica's relatively belated emancipation.

Agriculture it had to be. So Dominica's politicians talked agriculture and the need for people to take the land seriously and not to emulate the typical Third World Dick Whittington's rush to find salvation in the town.

Those who could not or would not heed the message migrated, not to Roseau but to London and New York. By and large those who stayed behind wanted to make agriculture work. But when the government was slow to follow through on its rhetoric, there was revolt.

Prime Minister Patrick John, although democratically elected, had begun to show symptoms of crazed omnipotence akin to the Duvaliers on nearby Haiti, giving himself the title of Doctor of Metaphysics.

He attempted to lease a quarter of the island to a Texas businessman for a rent of only £100 a year. Three weeks of non-violent strikes and protests, imitating all political parties, finally forced his resignation. Out of office, he set out to reclaim by force what he had been unable to keep with votes. John could not gather much support and was quickly arrested; he is now serving a long prison sentence.

Eugenie Charles has been in power since those troubled times. It was she who rallied her Caribbean neighbours and persuaded President Ronald Reagan to invade Grenada after a leftist coup. And she has gone about sorting out Dominica's economic problems with an equal single-mindedness. Not least, she has implemented the agricultural historic.

Now the government has acquired nearly all the large estates. Surprisingly, owners offered little resistance. Indeed, many wanted to sell out voluntarily. Increasingly they were unable to attract labour. Banana prices have been climbing steadily, and workers prepared to stay home working their own small fields rather than labour in the low-paying, inefficient baronist estates.

With financial aid from the UN International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Organization of American States, Charles divided up the estates, giving tenure to the workers.

Now the government is building farm-to-market roads, introducing up-to-date agricultural advice with new seeds, pesticides, insecticides and fertilizers. The first estate, Geneva, has recently ended its first full year under the new order. There are 370 farms of 730 acres of agricultural land.

It has transformed the lives of more than 1,500 people. With a quarter of an acre of ginger alone, a farmer can make \$1,500 a year, compared with a few hundred dollars before.

Soon, the other estates will get the same treatment. The agriculture department is efficient and the juggernaut of land reform appears unstoppable. Charles deploys her remarkable energies with no regard for the indecision that marks her sister leader on the other side of the world. Sometimes a journalist wishes he could make an introduction.

Jonathan Power is a foreign affairs analyst who specializes in Third World issues.

The lottery ticket

THE FIRST day in the new year was cold and dull just like any other day. He climbed down the endless stair steps leading to Basman Street, holding the morning paper under one arm and close to his chest, while leaning with the other against the rusty railing. He could smell stale air and other morning aromas and could not help thinking of missing out on his important appointment on that very first day of the new year.

An hour before, he kissed his mother's hand and asked her, almost mechanically, for her blessings. He then disappeared into the busy street bustling with cars and humans. It was cold and he shivered as he waited under the drizzling rain for the bus to arrive. Next to him also waiting was a young and sad-looking woman, about 25 or 26 years of age. He examined her as she rubbed her hands against each other. She had beautiful eyes, he thought to himself. Then the bus came and both dived inside it. The bus groaned and coughed as it pulled itself uphill. He stood next to the young woman lying to touch and smell her hair. She did not notice him, but soon her eyes gazing outside through the windows of the steaming bus.

He was in Basman street now. A boy jumped off the railing of a nearby lot and offered him lottery tickets. The boy also had sad eyes. His brown hair was wet and dripping. He examined the tickets as he searched for a winning number. "How much?" he asked carelessly. "Only five dinars," the boy answered enthusiastically as he stood on his toes to get a better look at the tickets in the man's hands. Then the boy pointed to a ticket. "This one... I guarantee it." He smiled and gave the boy a confident look. "How do you know," he asked. "I just know. This ticket will win you fifty-thousand dinars. Your fortune is good, I see it on your face."

He nodded and looked again at the ticket which the boy recommended. It had the number 988575, nothing special, no relationship whatsoever to him. The boy's eyes were almost pleading with him as the sky began to pour. The tickets were getting wet and the boy took out a wrinkled plastic bag from his pocket and gave it to him. He slipped the tickets into the bag and studied the ticket in question again. 988575. This was a major decision, and a sizeable amount of money was at stake. "Very well, I'll buy half a ticket," he said with obvious confidence. The boy's face reflected disappointment. "Only half, I tell you this one will win. Buy a whole." He was late for his appointment.

"The boy is sure of himself, he is a good salesman," he thought. Five dinars and who knows, the new year might bring him wealth and fortune.

He reached the decaying old building on the opposite street of the mosque's square. There he took a deep breath and disappeared. Up the dimly-lit stairs he climbed with confidence, and then before a black door he stopped, pushed it aside and entered as the door yawned and scratched inside the rectangular room a man wearing a brown and ugly suit, which obviously did not belong to him and was certainly bought for no less than five dinars from the flea market.

"Fine", he said as he searched his pocket for the few dinars he kept. He paid the boy and carefully hid the ticket in his shirt's pocket. The boy moved away triumphantly and then ran towards an elderly gentleman displaying the plastic bags' contents.

He walked along Basman street towards the Hussein Mosque square. The thought of wasting five dinars troubled him a bit, but again the lure of winning the first prize soothed his anxieties. Fifty-thousand dinars will definitely make a new person out of him, he thought. But he could not wave away the idea of losing, as he did many times before. Who knows?

The square was busy with crows and trucks and cars and buses. No longer could he smell faded, but the fumes of burnt gasoline filled his nostrils. He saw the grey sky looming over the mosque and pointing its pinnacles up towards its dirty dome. The newspaper was already crumpled, and his fingers had ink all over them. He remembered the young woman at the bus stop. Her sad eyes conquered his imagination, and he wished he could write a poem or a short story. What could he say? And he created the following verses in his mind:

"Sweet like the fragrance of lemon flowers,
Her hair black as moonless nights,
"Why are your eyes so sad?"
"It is because your heart has not been touched."
"By the soft music of mine?"

He liked it. It was very touching. Yes, today was a good day. First he saw this sad-looking temple. Then he bought a winning lottery ticket, and now he authored a romantic little poem which capitalized exactly how he felt on this cold and grey morning, the first morning of the new year.

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By Sejid Rizvi
Special to The Star

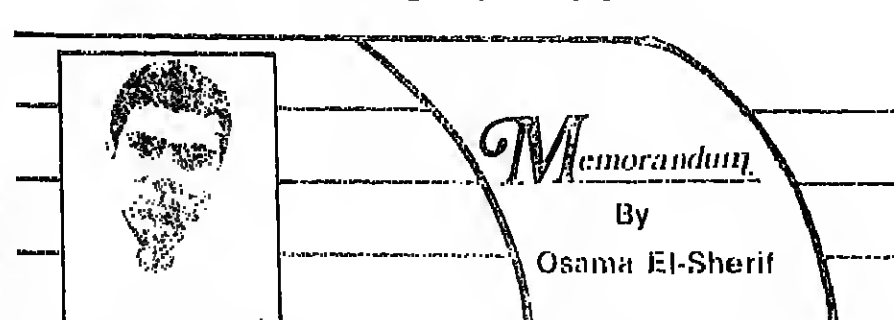
LONDON — THE West is going through a crash course on Japan, but the same cannot be said of the rest of the world, particularly the developing world, where admiration for the Asian giant matches ignorance of what makes it go.

Until a few years ago, the better informed among Japan's Asian admirers could look with disdain at the West's admirers could look with disdain at the West's inept and often biased handling of facts or fiction about Japan. They wouldn't do that any more. Today the West has taken on Japan in all its aspects, from trade to tea ceremony, from the aftermath of its defeat in World War II to the impact of its economic triumph on the competitiveness of Europe and North America.

The West today is better briefed about Japan than it ever has been, and it hasn't stopped learning while, in the Third World, the study of Japan is stagnant with some exceptions. The result of that Western quest has been a plethora of books, television and radio programmes, lectures and special tours — not all of them complimentary but provocative just the same.

Japan now dominates the world's economic scene — but the country remains an enigma, "thus starts a blur for a new book that promises to unravel the mysteries of Nippon, not often ask themselves: What does Japan do that we don't, but which makes it tick?"

Peter Tesker, author of "Inside Japan: Wealth Work and Power in the New Japanese Empire," published by London publisher Sidgwick & Jackson, has a lot



Memorandum
By
Osama El-Sherif

market, was reading a newspaper. His thick eye-glasses, enlarged his eyeballs to an unusual size. The man had white whiskers with broken and irregular endings. The room smelled of rotten eggs. "Good morning! Happy new year! Is Mr. Fahim in? I have an appointment at 9.30 this morning. It is about my novel 'The Lost Hearts', he said as he fixed his eyes on the man's deformed shape.

"Wait! Sit!" was all the man said as he inserted his head into the door's section. Then before he was about to sit, Mr. Fahim emerged from his office and looked at him. "Oh, is you, Wait, come in." He followed him into the room. The creature outside was probably dead for he scarcely moved a muscle. In the large room filled with books and bundles of papers both men sat at their designated places. The pale man on the left, a deprived citizen was complaining about lawyers on New Year's Day. Mr. Fahim coughed for few minutes as he completed a sizeable amount of liquid in his mouth and then threw all in the direction of the red eyes examined the reaction on the client's face. He soon felt. He was all ears to the historic decision which was about to be pronounced in few seconds.

"Well, The novel is no good to me now, Mr. Fahim said as he yawned his face with a green handkerchief. He smiled and pulled a manuscript from a drawer in that he polished (iron) of his.

He was back on the street again. The old decaying building had burned him like a pole of sulphur. He threw away the newspaper and walked down the street back to the Hussein square. He looked up and saw the boy who had sold him the ticket. The boy's eyes were almost pleading with him as the sky began to pour. The tickets were getting wet and the boy took out a wrinkled plastic bag from his pocket and gave it to him. He slipped the tickets into the bag and studied the ticket in question again. 988575. This was a major decision, and a sizeable amount of money was at stake. "Very well, I'll buy half a ticket," he said with obvious confidence. The boy's face reflected disappointment. "Only half, I tell you this one will win. Buy a whole." He was late for his appointment.

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Japan now dominates the world's economic scene — but the country remains an enigma, "thus starts a blur for a new book that promises to unravel the mysteries of Nippon, not often ask themselves: What does Japan do that we don't, but which makes it tick?"

Peter Tesker, author of "Inside Japan: Wealth Work and Power in the New Japanese Empire," published by London publisher Sidgwick & Jackson, has a lot

going for him. First of all, he isn't a cloistered academic; as a Japanese speaker and head of Japanese research at Kleinwort Benson International in Tokyo, he was able to examine the country at close range, put his findings on paper and draw some conclusions and leave others for the reader.

But when he says that "in the West, awareness of Japan remains at a lamentably low level," he evidently is understanding the case for the developing world, where even the stereotype images of Japan are short on detail.

After the accolades, for example, it is instructive to know that many young Japanese, according to Tasker, "view the problems of other countries with apathy, or, more worrying, dismissive arrogance. The few bureaucrats, businessmen and politicians, with a sophisticated appreciation of Japan's international role, stand well outside the mainstream of public opinion."

That isn't new, of course. Governments acting at variance with public opinion come a dime a dozen. What makes the Japanese attitude noteworthy is the range and depth of the change that it represents.

"Collective prosperity poses a different set of challenges from collective effort and collective suffering," says Tasker. "Within Japan, the age of homogeneity is gradually giving way to particularization and complexity, making the country less easy both to govern and to categorize."

In Tasker's view, the much vaunted sense of solidarity in Japan is fading as economic

inquiries and contradictions become more apparent. On the political plane, the old consensus-building style of leadership no longer suffices. "Consumers, farmers, high tech exporters, depressed heavy industries, mammoth financial institutions — all have different priorities, which are becoming increasingly difficult to reconcile," says Tasker. His observation may perhaps be the single most reassuring sign to Europeans that Japan, after all, may not be all that different from their own place.

Against these tell-tale signs of flux must be placed the vision of a Japan of business as usual. "There is certainly no compelling reason for change," says Tasker. "The Japanese are now richer than they have ever been. They have not been involved in an international conflict for 40 years. Events are going Japan's way without any obvious need to worry about them. In that sense, the lack of interest shown in the doings of politicians is the best of all tributes to their accomplishment."

Oh! no doesn't know. Americans through the better part of their postwar prosperity bulldozed their politicians, and the results now defy description. Tasker perhaps, "come close to the bone in observing that 'conscience where politics is taken seriously are not usually happy places,'" but many Japanese may recoil at the inevitable implication that they will vote just anyone in, regardless.

Sejid Rizvi is the Managing Editor of Academic File.

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View point

By Ya'coub Ahmad

Signs heralding positive changes

THE FLURRY of world condemnation of Israeli ruthless behaviour in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip over the past few weeks, though not quite at parity with the outrages committed against the defenceless Palestinian population, seems to have opened Israeli leaders and aroused their concern about Israel's image abroad. While unwilling to ease any of their repressive measures to soothe increasingly disenchanted world public opinion, the Israelis are nevertheless for ways to rehabilitate the image of Israel as a "democratic peace-loving state."

The Israelis are particularly worried about US official criticism and the relative prominence given by the American press to the uprising and the indiscriminate shooting of the Arab demonstrators. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, in remarks made Friday, ignored other world reactions and concentrated solely on reminding US officials for their mild criticism of Israeli actions.

Shamir sounded as if he expected the US administration to thank Israel for the way its occupation soldiers confronted the Palestinian protesters. He wondered how some US officials could criticize "A democratic state in its dealing with non-democratic elements", targeting that military occupation contravenes the very basics of democracy.

Shamir, however, was right to pinpoint the United States for his complaints about international reaction for he is quite aware that Israel will still be not seriously affected if it loses the support of all foreign powers with the exception of the United States whose massive backing is essential for Israel's survival.

Israeli leaders can rest assured that their strategic ally will never waver in extending unlimited support to their state unless forced to do that by drastic changes occurring either in the Arab world or inside the United States itself. There have been signs that such changes are becoming possible.

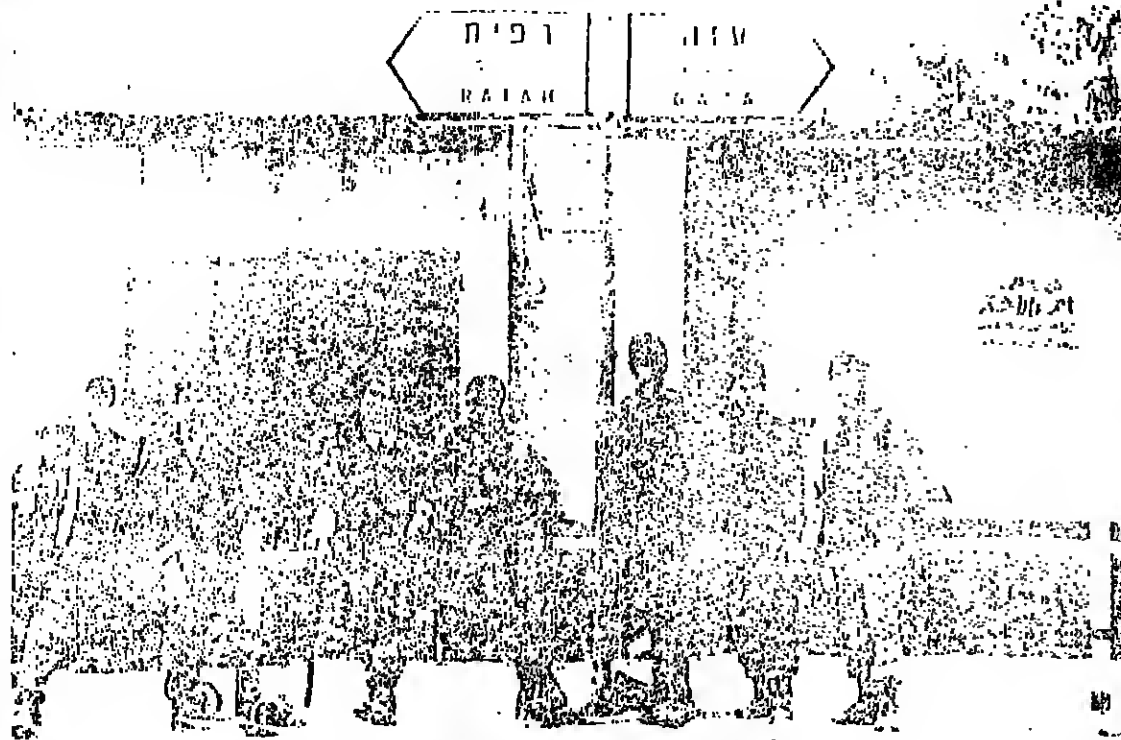
On the Arab side, Egypt's slow but steady return to the Arab fold will readjust the balance of power and prompt Washington and Tel Aviv to reconsider their policies and abandon previous tactics which Egypt's return would prove fruitless. The spirit of reconciliation currently prevailing in the Arab world following last November's extraordinary Arab summit and the growing sense among Arab countries that they face common threats and consequently a common fate are overriding narrow unilateral concerns.

In the United States, the Jewish lobby is too powerful to be weakened by casual mild criticism. But judging from the way the US press had tackled the bloody events in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, one tends to feel that a gap began to exist between the US official stance and the American public; a gap that can be widened by continued media coverage of the Israeli action. This gap could reach a point which the US administration and legislators find themselves unable to ignore.

In the end, it is the Arab position that matters most. The Arabs possess the potentialities to introduce the necessary changes once they act on the conviction that they face common enemies.



The mother of Adel Mohammad Dahlan mourns her son who was shot dead by Israeli soldiers in Khan Younis



Israeli soldiers seem unaffected by crimes they commit daily

AN ISRAELI soldier shot and wounded a Palestinian in the West Bank city of Tulkarem on Wednesday after the man attacked an army vehicle and stabbed a female soldier, the army said.

A rash of demonstrations was reported throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In the West Bank town of Qalqilya, soldiers fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse Palestinian protesters. The army clamped curfews on several cities and refugee camps.

The demonstrations came a day after soldiers shot and killed a 25-year-old resident in the Gaza Strip City of Khan Younis and wounded seven.

The renewed violence dealt a blow to Israeli efforts to restore tranquility and defuse international criticism of its handling of the unrest.

The Palestine Press Service said a 20-year-old Palestinian was shot in the head by a soldier after the army dispersed stone-throwing demonstrators in the Nur Shams refugee camp near Tulkarem. The Arab-run agency identified the victim as Khaled Khairallah.

The army imposed curfews on parts of Qalqilya and the West Bank refugee camp of Rafah. Curfews imposed Tuesday remained in effect in Khan Younis and the Tulkarem refugee camp.

Soldiers dispersed demonstrators who burned tires and threw stones in Gaza City and the town of Rafah in the Gaza Strip, Israeli army radio said. There were no reports of injuries.

Protests were also reported in the West Bank city of Ramallah and the nearby refugee camps of Anari, Kalandia and Jalazzoun.

Military review committees, meanwhile, heard appeals from Palestinians who were ordered deported after allegedly inciting the rioters, the army said. Nine Palestinians were ordered deported, but it was not immediately clear if all of them filed appeals.

Meanwhile, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution calling on Israel to refrain from deporting the nine Palestinians. Israeli officials said it would not affect plans to deport nine Arabs.

Israeli officials Wednesday sharply criticized UN Security Council resolution challenging its plans to deport Palestinian activists and said the vote would encourage further violence.

"I definitely regard (the US vote) as a serious kind of deviation from the framework of our relations with the United States," said Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

"We are sorry about it, and we

Protests continue in occupied territories while US votes against deportation decision

will express our regret to the United States," he told reporters.

Peres denounced the deportation orders. "I think Israel did what she had to do, not in happiness, but with an obligation to defend lives and security of all the residents in the territories — Jews and Arabs," he said.

Avi Pazner, a spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, said Israel was "disappointed" that the United States, Israel's staunch ally, supported the resolution.

Moshe Arens, a former Israeli ambassador to Washington, said the US vote marked a deterioration in the relationship between the two countries.

UN ambassador Benyamin Netanyahu noted the United States had helped tone down the language of the resolution. But he said Israel will not abide by the security Council measure which calls on Israel to refrain from deporting Palestinians.

The United States, Israel's staunchest defender at the United Nations, joined the other 14 coun-

try members in endorsing the resolution. The US mission to the United Nations said it was the first US vote against Israel in the council in six years.

"The steps we have been taking lately, including the expulsion of the main inciters of the rioting and unrest, were taken with a view towards restoring peace and normal life in those territories," Pazner told the Associated Press on Wednesday.

"A vote for a resolution which calls on us not to take this step can only encourage those among the extremists who are interested in continued unrest and violence," he said.

Twenty-four Palestinians have been killed by army gunfire since rioting began 8 December in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In a crackdown on the unrest, the army detained more than 1,000 people and ordered the deportation of nine alleged ringleaders.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Nations' Committee of Al Qods, meeting in emergency session, condemned Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory and "inhuman Zionist

conforming to the will of the international community so that a peace process can be started."

Israeli officials on Tuesday also sharply criticized a top British diplomat who said conditions in a Palestinian refugee camp he toured in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip were "an affront to civilized values."

David Mellor, a junior minister in charge of the Middle East at Britain's Foreign Office, responded by asking Israel to stop what he termed "witch hunts against individuals who speak as friends." He also said his position expressed the views of the British government.

"Please, let us try to raise above the debating points, let us stop having witch hunts against individuals who speak as friends," Mellor said on Israeli television.

But Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir told Mellor at a meeting that "it's not customary among friends to enter into public debate," an official at Shamir's office said.

Trade and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon said Mellor's remarks were "made by a man who maybe forgot that Great Britain does not rule anymore in this country."

President Chaim Herzog charged that Britain has supported United Nations Resolutions calling on Israel to return to the camps refugees who have been given alternative housing.

Israeli officials said Israel was particularly displeased by an incident in which Mellor upbraided an army officer over the arrest of a 14-year-old boy for stone-throwing in the Jabalya refugee camp near Gaza City.

The central council of the Palestinian Liberation Organization will convene in Baghdad Thursday to seek international protection for the Palestinians in Israeli-occupied territory, a PLO official said Tuesday.

The meeting "will discuss the uprising in the occupied land and the PLO efforts to seek international protection for Palestinians under Israeli rule," Azam Al-Ahmed, director of the PLO's Baghdad office told the Associated Press.

Al-Ahmed said "that is a possibility," when asked whether the council would discuss establishing a Palestinian government-in-exile.

The PNC would have the final say on whether a government-in-exile should be formed.

"If that government will help to protect our people in the occupied territory, the PLO might well take such a step," he added.

A growing sense of catholic shift on Palestine

The Vatican has been modifying its stand on the Palestinian issue, and the latest disturbances in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza may go some way underpinning the Catholic Church's belief in a settlement that will not only restore Palestinian rights but also guarantee freedom of Christian worship.

By Natalie Warren-Green
Special to The Star

THE VIOLENCE in Gaza and the West Bank left many dead and scores wounded, but among those no doubt disturbed by the Christmas events was the Vatican, which has more than an academic interest in the troubled regions.

Christians, albeit not all followers of Pope John Paul II, constitute a significant minority in the Palestinian community. Though the years before and after the creation of Israel, Christians found themselves in a sensitive position, which was exacerbated by extremist Israeli moves to limit Christian worship in Jerusalem and other areas of the Holy Land.

But it was only after the Lebanese crisis began to unfold in 1982 that the Vatican registered its first major policy shift in recent memory. For the first time in an April 1982 message, Pope John Paul II referred to the Palestinians as a "people" rather than as refugees, and "as a population that is yearning for a situation in which their legitimate aspirations can be recognized and fulfilled."

It wasn't as decisive a shift as it seemed, for in the same message the Pope appeared to acknowledge the existence of Israel, even though the Vatican still does not recognize the state.

Other Catholic critics were more outspoken in their condemnation of Israel's role in Lebanon and in the territories it seized in the 1967 war. In the intervening period, the Vatican's stance has wavered between capitulation to Israeli pressure and indirect hints of support for the Palestinian cause.

How the Vatican's stand will evolve in the coming months may depend as much on events as the personal intervention of Pope John Paul II. Through the years, the position of the Vatican on the question of Palestine has varied according to the attitudes and experience of particular Popes, according to Sarah Graham-Brown, who contributed an afterword to a major study of The Catholic Church and the Question of Palestine, by the late Israeli journalist writer Livia Rokach.

The book by Rokach, who committed suicide in 1984, was published in London by Seal Books. Its detailed account of more than a century of Catholic-Zionist confrontation over Israel is amplified by writer Graham-Brown, who put the 1980s in perspective.

The first official criticism of Zionism by the Catholic Church,

though the Vatican still does not recognize the state.

The Vatican since the 1950s has continued to press a set of minimum demands as a prerequisite for the recognition of Israel. These include some kind of international status for Jerusalem and recognition of the rights of the Palestinians.

Although the terms have never been well defined, according to the study, the Vatican has left clear hints that none have been met.

It may be some time before the Vatican position vis-a-vis Palestine and Israel becomes clear, but in recent years the Catholic church has given several indications, cited by Graham-Brown, of the changing mood within.

In February 1982, Mons. Mario Bini, on a pontifical mission to Jordan, described the Vatican's work towards a "just" Palestinian solution and cited its "intense activity, on the educational, social and humanitarian level, to encourage Palestinians to remain on their native soil and maintain their identity."

In March 1982, when the head of Palestine Liberation Organization political department, Farouk Qaddouri, met with the Pope's secretary of state, Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, he was reported try-

ing to persuade the Vatican to the view that the PLO was essentially a political movement that had taken up arms only out of necessity.

During the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982, the Pope issued frequent calls for prayers for "suffering Lebanon" and expressed concern for the impact of the invasion of Lebanon on World peace.

But a bitter verbal exchange between the Vatican and Israel followed on the eve of the Pope's meeting with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in September 1982.

Whatever diplomatic ground was created by the meeting, how-

ever, was undone by the Christian Phalangist massacre of Palestinian refugee families in the Sabra and Shatila camps of Beirut, which put the Vatican in an awkward position, and the dispersal of the PLO from Lebanon.

Vatican relations with Israel were not helped by the uproar over the meeting between Austrian President Kurt Waldheim and the Pope on 25 June 1987.

Whether 1988 will see a new Vatican approach induced by the events in the West Bank and Gaza is hard to predict, but reasonable to expect amid signs of increased Catholic disquiet over the never ending impasse.

which was torn apart over Lebanon, the hard shell loyalists are saying that the demonstrations are the work of "outside agitators," and that the unmasked teenagers are "terrorists." The moderates urge Israelis to admit that they have a fundamental problem of justice and decency.

The one thing that has caught the attention of the Israelis was a massive strike by Arabs living in Israel. It was, a resident Arab expert told the New York Times, "probably a shock." Israelis, who do not talk to Arabs much, found it hard to believe that Arabs who had been living quietly among them care more about their brother Arabs than their paychecks and their security.

The condescension is inescapable. It is part of the trouble. The Jews have never accepted the Arabs as human beings any more than the Arabs have accepted the existence of a Jewish state.

The Israelis claim they have occupied the conquered territories to secure their borders after the 1967 war. The territories have been under military rule ever since. The Arabs, some of them living on family land owned for generations,

can vote only in municipal elections. They have no self-government. Palestinian youths didn't need the Palestine Liberation Organization to point out that they were living under apartheid.

A bad situation was made worse by former Prime Minister Menachem Begin, who harangued Jews about their God-given rights to the biblical lands of Judea and Samaria and accelerated the pace of Israeli settlement. The prospect of peace with a ratio, in Gaza, of 560,000 Arabs to 2,500 Jews is not powerful. Expulsion of the Palestinians, which is favoured by the hard right, would not be tolerated; annexation is, for Abba Eban's reasons, unworkable. Negotiation is clearly the answer.

But as long as they can depend on US aid and the silence of timid politicians, Israel is likely to pretend that no accommodation is necessary, and when human evidence to the contrary rises up, to go on clubbing it.

Mary McGoray is a syndicated columnist based in Washington.

Silence is deafening about offences against Palestinians



Washington — You could comb the pages of the Congressional Record for the last 10 days of the session and not find a single reference to the shameful events unfolding in Israel.

On the West Bank, Israeli soldiers have been clubbing unarmed teenage Arab demonstrators into the ground. The week before Christmas, having terrorized relatives of patients who were waiting in the courtyard, they stormed into an Arab hospital in Gaza, and beat up doctors and nurses.

If the 22 killed and scores wounded had been Israelis, you can imagine the outcry. But casualties were Palestinians, who are voiceless here, and the silence was awful. "We were awfully busy getting out of there," said one member of a holiday party. "You know, we had to get out and fairness and all that."

But another said more forthrightly: "Of course nobody spoke out. We are too intimidated. We are afraid of the Israeli lobby. We are

afraid of our Jewish constituency. Some of my Jewish voters are as appalled as I am at what's going on, but they don't dare speak out for fear of the others."

The Reagan administration, which is as permissive with Israel as its predecessors, felt obliged to condemn Israeli tactics, calling them "unacceptably harsh." But there was no threat to do anything about it. The president was even-handed in condemning both sides, and said nothing about withholding any of the US weapons and funds on which Israel depends for her survival. The Israelis made it official policy during their brutal invasion of Lebanon that words will never hurt them.

Inside Israel, there is silence. Those Israelis who protested the 1982 Lebanon adventure and its attendant barbarities have rallied round their weak leaders. Abba Eban long ago warned his countrymen that the occupied territories give Israel the choice of either ceasing to be Jewish (because the Arabs will soon outnumber them) or ceasing to be democratic (because it does not confer citizenship on an Arab majority).

in the US Jewish community,



PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat during a meeting with Pope John Paul II in 1982

ing to persuade the Vatican to the view that the PLO was essentially a political movement that had taken up arms only out of necessity.

During the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982, the Pope issued frequent calls for prayers for "suffering Lebanon" and expressed concern for the impact of the invasion of Lebanon on World peace.

But a bitter verbal exchange between the Vatican and Israel followed on the eve of the Pope's meeting with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in September 1982.

Whatever diplomatic ground was created by the meeting, how-

can vote only in municipal elections. They have no self-government. Palestinian youths didn't need the Palestine Liberation Organization to point out that they were living under apartheid.

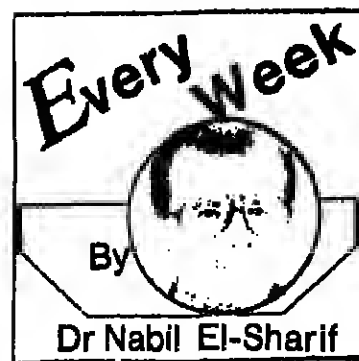
A bad situation was made worse by former Prime Minister Menachem Begin, who harangued Jews about their God-given rights to the biblical lands of Judea and Samaria and accelerated the pace of Israeli settlement. The prospect of peace with a ratio, in Gaza, of 560,000 Arabs to 2,500 Jews is not powerful. Expulsion of the Palestinians, which is favoured by the hard right, would not be tolerated; annexation is, for Abba Eban's reasons, unworkable. Negotiation is clearly the answer.

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Two Palestinian women trying to prevent Israeli soldiers from detaining a Palestinian child.



Cathartics for the killers?!

AN ISRAELI newspaper reported earlier this week that 100 army reservists have declared they would "refuse to take part in suppressing the uprising and insurrection in the occupied territories."

While this development is welcomed because it shows a different kind of attitude from the Zionist state, it is still a long way before this reaction by some Israeli reservists could have the strong and influential impact it needs to change or reverse the trend of subjugation and oppression that characterizes the Zionist mentality.

It has often been thought that too much indulgence in killing and bloodshed can have nightmarish effects on the killers who would experience pain and agony that can parallel the pain and agony of the victims. The reaction of the Israeli reservists proves the truthfulness of this idea, and should consequently prompt us to pay tribute to our brethren in the Occupied Arab Territories who have caused even the killers to stop and think if they can go ahead with the killing programmes set for them.

Israel has often resorted to justification and lying to justify its illegitimate existence on the Arab land; its army of occupation and aggression is euphemistically called a (defence) army, its occupation of Arab lands is only referred to as the Israeli media as (administration) of the territories (no mention of the fact that these territories are occupied by Israel). The ultimate lie is — of course — the fabrication of the history of the land and the portrayal of its present reality to world Jewry as a (heaven on earth).

But finally these lies are beginning to be realized as such even among the defenders — namely members of Israel's (Defence) army. The 100 reservists are now asking themselves if it is right for an occupying army to force its will on a civilian population. They are also asking themselves if the role of any soldier should be confined to chasing children through the dirty streets of refugee camps.

Who knows if these soldiers have asked these and other questions, they may not be at the bottom of the list of those upon which the Zionist entity is based.

Political stakes are high in the Afghan War

The perfect timing of a battle for Khost on the eve of the eighth anniversary of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan seemed too good to be true. Now the outcome is clear, and it is far less impressive than anticipated.

THE INCONCLUSIVE battle for the little Afghan town of Khost could hardly have opened the gates of Kabul for the guerrillas, even if they agreed to march together, but it focused harsh light on key questions far removed from the fighting.

Are the Afghan guerrillas, when not engaged in spectacular but short-lived feats such as the siege of Khost, any closer now than in 1979 to getting the Soviet troops out of Afghanistan? Can they realistically see themselves as a future government in Kabul? Can they truly speak with one voice, as 'The Resistance'? The answer, sadly, is 'No', based on the evidence of sources in Pakistan and Europe.

A successful siege and capture of Khost undoubtedly would have allowed the guerrillas to set up a government in exile from which political, diplomatic and even military pressures could be brought to bear upon Dr. Najibullah's regime in Kabul and Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow.

But which guerrillas could those be? Half a dozen diverse groups are at least official, another score cite compelling reasons to remain separate from each other. Is this then 'the resistance' that hopes to rule from Kabul?

In sharp contrast, Kabul is consolidating, whether by a policy of carrot and stick seems no longer pertinent. Eight years of a single-minded approach to the creation of a brand-new political system have led to the birth of an elite, pampered yes, but omnipresent where it matters most.

From the outside that seems like a very small minority taking charge and bent upon perpetuating its dominant status in the shape of things to come. But is that new? Afghanistan was always ruled by a minority, whether a royalist elite sub-contracted to ensure mass loyalty to the King or a feudal mix hardening the poor towards allegiance to the President. Both neglected the majority to scandalous extremes.

The difference between the excesses of the past and those of the present lies both in the size of the stick and the weight of the carrot. Just as retribution under the Soviet-backed regime is swift, brutal and usually encompassing whole families or communities condemned for disloyalty, so is the reform of a primitive society, particularly its economic and social systems, draconian, arbitrary and surprisingly effective.

Where there was none, the regime has enforced an ideology sugarcoated in Islamic vocabulary. Outlanders may recognize it as communism, but does the majority of Afghans, which has been promised in return better housing, more education and security of jobs, increasingly feel as if they are being deceived? There is a significant class of educated Afghans loyal to Najib who fervently believe that a sort of Islamic socialism is working in the country.

This is the emerging 'intelligentsia' of a deeply entrenched regime that the Afghan guerrillas in exile are faced with. To an estimated 5,000 card-holders of the ruling People's Democratic Party, eight years ago have been added at least 145,000 new adherents.

Whether the number is verifiable or not seems hardly the issue. What is important is that a con-



tinuity for the Kabul regime exists and it seems to be growing as years go by.

The 10-year-old who watched Soviet tanks leave track imprints on Afghan soil in December 1979 are teenagers with concerns surprisingly common to all young men or women. They are not interested in dying, which is what those who oppose Kabul or decide to cross over to the guerrilla ranks frankly do.

Nor is the Soviet presence of about 110,000 viable in Kabul, which is as garrisoned as can be expected but not quite overrun by Soviet troops, who are spread out in the mountains.

Notwithstanding a flood of refugees from the outlying areas and the nightly terror of distant shelling and bombardments, Kabul is more secure than Basrah, Iraq, under Iranian shellfire. Curfew on the capital was lifted in early 1987.

It's an oft-repeated fallacy that Kabul or Moscow would want to change all that; they could only wish to improve it. One way would be to deepen the sense that the Mujahideen are a nuisance, but not a threat.

Already the guerrillas' track record has made them less than formidable. Since the refugees and fighters began to form into guerrilla groups in the wake of the 1979 Soviet intervention, there have been many spectacular campaigns, with a heavy loss of life on both sides, but none which was sustained.

Despite repeated attempts, of which the siege of Khost was but

the latest, the guerrillas have never gained complete control of a major Afghan town or provincial center. Nor indeed have they been particularly successful in assassinations, the gory stuff of which 'resistance' is made.

But, above all, they are pitifully divided, with circles within circles of personality and ideological conflicts.

Almost all attempts at unity have foundered on the reasonable, but not so realistic logic that all groups must strive together irrespective of views or ideological leanings. Respectable at face value, that argument has been the easiest way of postponing resolution.

But Kabul has showed that views — and ideology — are important. The regime no doubt is far from secure — or the Soviet troops wouldn't be there at heavy cost to an overburdened Soviet economy — but it's moving inexorably towards that objective of self-confidence.

The guerrillas also have a new confidence of sorts, armed with the US-made Stinger missiles. It may not be a comprehensive answer to the political patchwork being sown up by Kabul, or the joint might of Soviet and Afghan government forces, but it's a fear-some weapon.

The Stinger may just help the guerrillas empty the eastern sides of the Pakistani border of Soviet or Afghan military air-power.

Then the guerrillas would find it easier to mount a decisive siege of Khost or Jalalabad, east of Kabul and gain a toe-hold so vital to their political and diplomatic aims. But the Stinger would not do for the guerrillas the much more mundane job of clear hard thinking and clearing of ranks.

When Gadhafi, a Signale captain, ousted King Idris in 1969, Libya still was a tribal society. Yet within a few years it had to go through the experience of Gadhafi's model — a state of statelessness or the Jamahiriya, literally a state of the masses. Plain democracy would have been tough enough to follow in a traditional society; the Jamahiriya was a tall order.

But was it? Cutting through the screen of universal derision, we find that Gadhafi's experiment may have made sense after all. What the outsiders perceived as incoherent raving, says Davis in his recently published *Libyan Politics*, was the highly logical product of a peculiar combination of historical and political circumstances.

Until 1963, when King Idris abandoned the federal constitution to enforce a parliamentary monarchy, Libya was associated a united state with Italy's colonial oppression and French and British attempts to annex parts of Libya during World War II. The state, therefore, had little value as an object of loyalty. Direct participation in public affairs, on the other hand, was the tribal norm.

So they should. In the heady years of his endemic confrontation with fellow Arabs, Africans, Westerners and indeed Libyans, Gadhafi has personified Libya and Libyans has meant Gadhafi.

In the few glimpses of Libya allowed beyond that perimeter, we have learned that it's a country surviving almost entirely by oil, waging the old war and diplomatic skirmish but otherwise vibrant and uncompromising in its revolutionary stance.

When Gadhafi took over, according to Davis, he saw the problem as one of maintaining individual sovereignty in a modern state firmly rooted in tribalism.

Libya, he says, is unusual but not

Chemical weapons raise Iran radicals' hopes

The Gulf Co-operation Council's call for sanctions against Iran and current UN-based talks on an arms embargo were the instigators of an ominous Iranian 'revelation' of a potential domestic arsenal of chemical weapons to be used against Iraq. But within the Tehran regime there is also a genuine groundswell of radical opinion for a decisive strike against Iraq, and opposition to costly and inconclusive human-wave ground assaults.

Special to The Star

THERE WAS more than an incidental link between Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hossein Musavi's ominous hints of a chemical arsenal being readied against Iraq and diplomatic pressure building abroad for an arms embargo, even sanctions, against the Islamic Republic.

Iranian government and private sources acknowledged that Musavi's remarks could be construed as 'a justifiable counterblast' against the threat of an arms embargo or sanctions.

Western, Iraqi and Arab diplomatic efforts have converged on the idea that an arms embargo would limit Iran's military activity and eventually force it to ease for peace. The argument gained strength particularly after the greatly publicized deliveries of Chinese Silkworm missiles to Iran, though Beijing later more missiles were being shipped to Tehran.

The costs of weapons acquisitions from Europe, a chief source for Iran so far, have skyrocketed with the strengthening of the British pound sterling, Deutschmark, the French and Swiss francs against

the dollar. Although much financial wizardry goes into negotiating Iranian arms and crude oil deals, the odds are obvious, according to the sources.

Against the difficulties faced by Iran, one Iranian source complained that European suppliers "appear to be handing over backward" to oblige Gulf states involved in an extensive military replenishment and modernization programme.

The looming threat of an embargo, or at best greater official Western curbs on private sales to Iran, has had an indirect offshoot in Tehran: it has heightened those government circles who want to get tougher with Iraq.

The prime minister's hint that Iran might possess its own chemical weapons followed less likely stories that Iran might have developed a 'ballistic' missile. Swaps of ground-to-ground missiles with Libya and Syria also were cited in the continuing propaganda trade-off.

Musavi said in parliament in December that Iran had reached the capability for producing offensive chemical weapons, which he did not describe in detail.

But, he said, Iran would not use those weapons "as long as it is not forced to." That remark, according to Iranian sources, was manifestly intended for consumption by governments seeking to isolate Iran on the arms and diplomatic fronts.

Although Iran is not believed to have used chemical weapons against Iraq, while Iraq was criticized by a United Nations committee for using them repeatedly in 1984-85, the implicit threat of future use has implications for Iran's domestic politics as well.

Any resort to chemical weapons would destroy Iran's stance that it is the victim, rather than the perpetrator, of a serious violation of the Geneva convention that forbade the use of chemical weapons.

In 1985-86, Iran campaigned successfully against Iraq by sending disfigured victims of Iraq's mustard gas to European hospitals, where they were duly monitored by the media.

More important, chemical weapons would transform the military pecking order in Iran's already complex war machine, throwing up front the radical strategists and commanders and shunting aside those who see chemical weapons as 'un-Islamic'.

Debate over the use of a more destructive weapon against the Iraqi ground forces (such as the 'chemicals'), plus doubt that another mass infantry assault on the Basrah front would help establish a much

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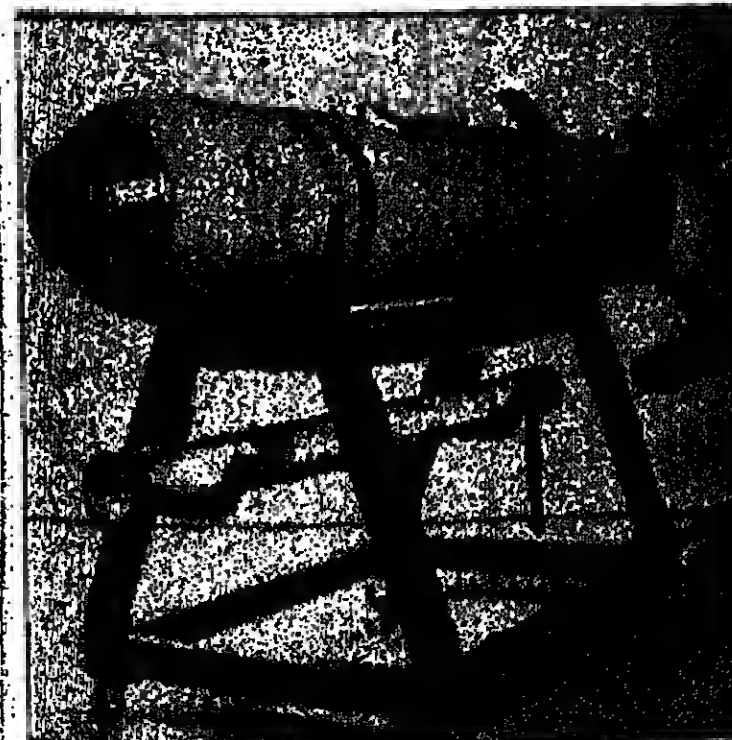


charished bridgehead in the Iraqi city's eastern environs, has been behind delays in a long promised Iranian offensive.

But opinion within the government in favour of a decisive strike against Iraq also has built up, favouring those who push the use of a deadlier weapon than human

wave assaults.

These hardliners are far from anaesthetized in Iran's decision-making process, nor is there evidence yet of Iranian chemical weapons being ready to use. But, whether available or not, the chemical weapons have come to serve a diplomatic purpose.



A bomb which releases a gas that affects the nervous system in human beings



Defence against lethal chemical weapons

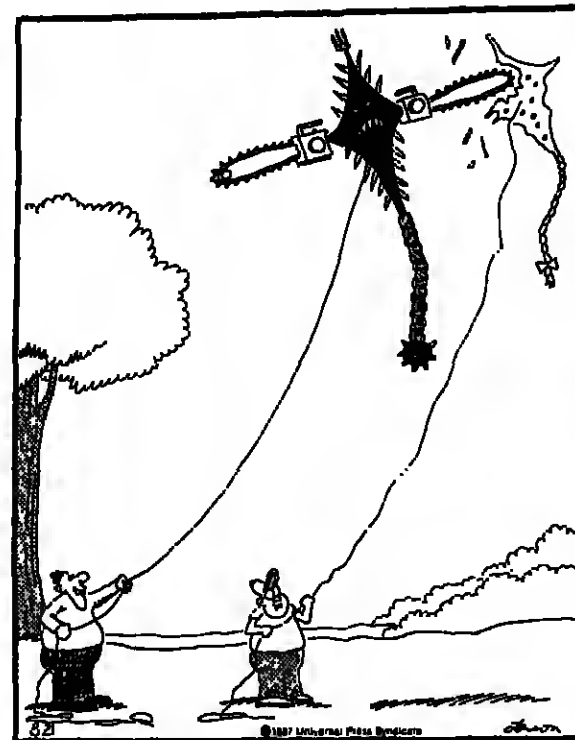
VIN DE CHATEAU

Taste the Good Life

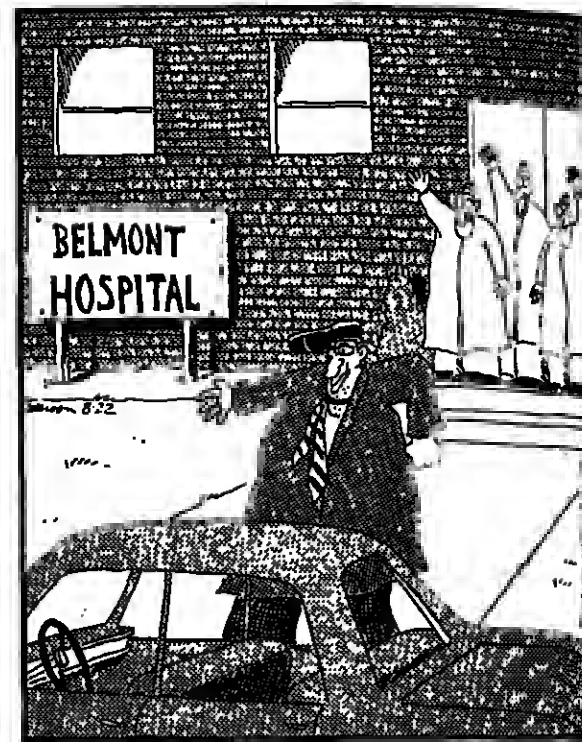
...even if you weren't born with a Silver Spoon



Baryshnikov's ultimate nightmare



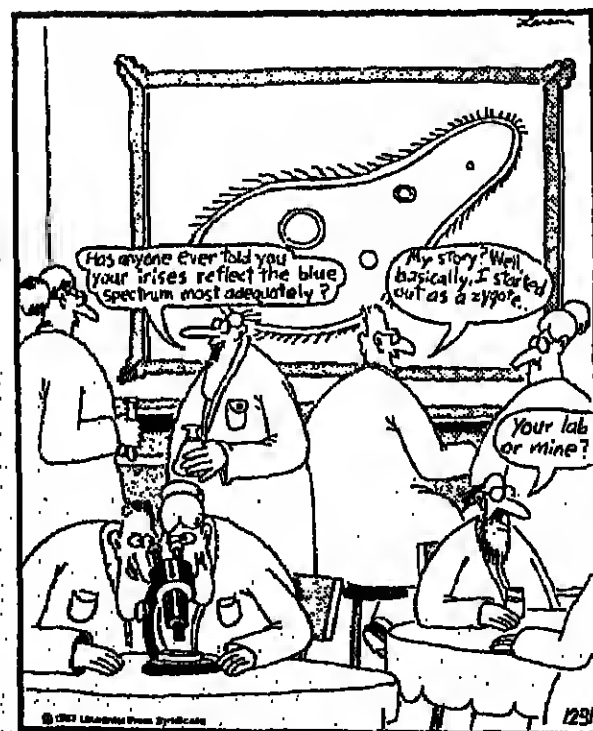
Eddie Nordquist and his "Death Kite."



Gus Ferguson: Recipient of the first brain bypass operation.

THE FAR SIDE

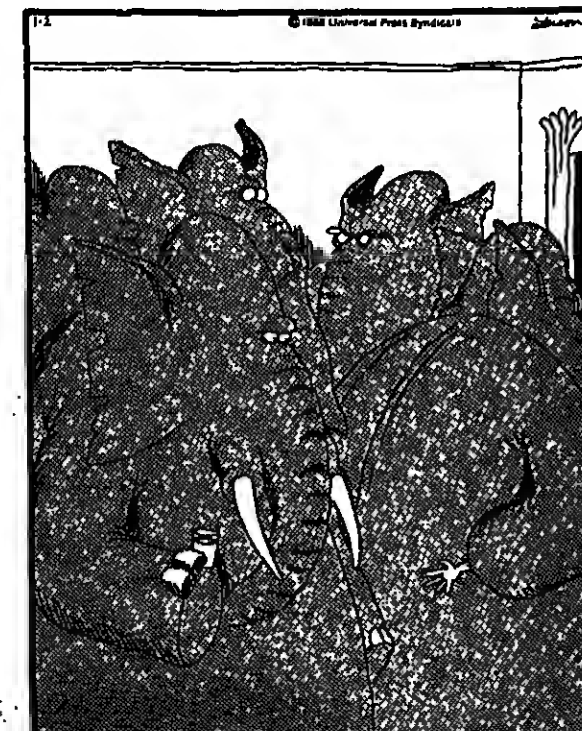
By GARY LARSON



Scientific meat markets



Daddy long-leg jerks



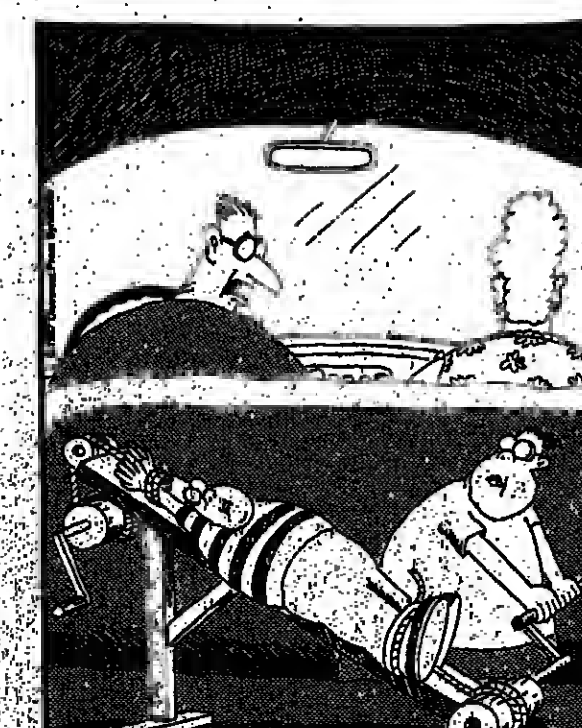
Although Edgar discreetly tried to hide his ailment, his friends still noticed his humanistic.



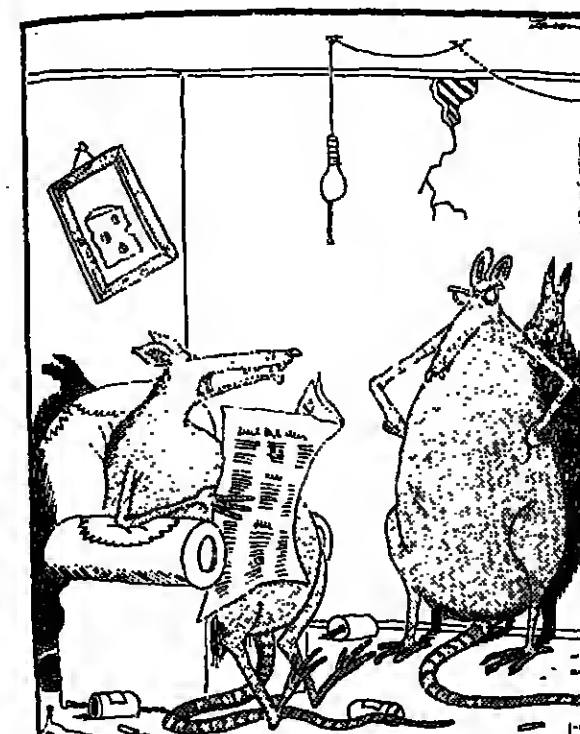
Famous restaurants



Darwin reaches the Galapagos



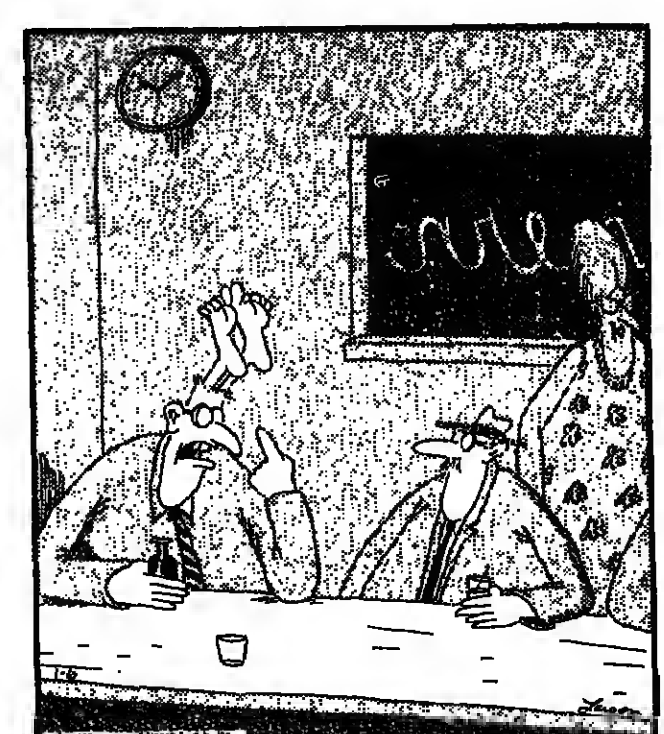
"You want me to stop the car, Larry, or do you want to take your brother off the rack this instant?"



"Clean it up? Clean it up? Crimony, it's supposed to be a rollo!"



"All right! Hand me the tongs, Frank ... We got us a big den of rattlers here."



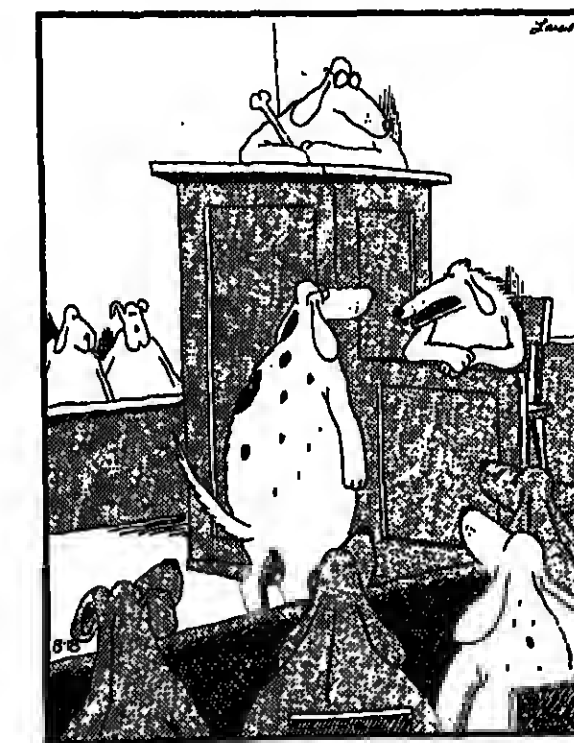
"Mind? Hey, buddy, these flat feet kept me out of the Army!"

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



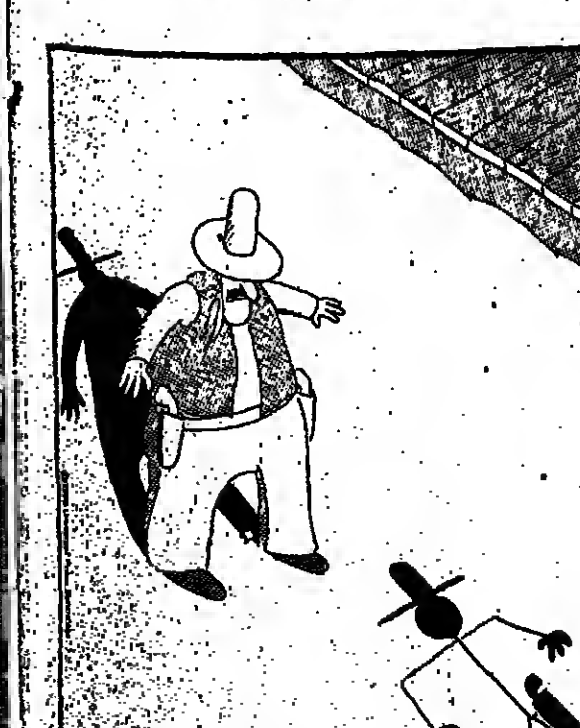
Crossing paths on their respective journeys of destiny, Johnny Appleseed and Irving Ragweed nod "hello."



"Well, the defendant and I had made this deal in which we both prospered. ... One of those 'you-scratch-me-behind-my-ears-I'll-scratch-you-behind-yours' arrangements."



Hell's library



"Anytime, Slim."



"Mom! The kids at school say we're a family of Nerdenthalist ... is that true?"



The squid family on vacation.

